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106 Early K1 Admissions Policy

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PURPOSE

State law requires that Kindergarten students must attain the age of five years on or prior to September 1 of the enrollment year, unless the local school board has adopted a policy for early enrollment in select cases. Three Rivers Montessori's mission is to empower students to reach their full potential through authentic Montessori learning. Some students with exceptionally advanced abilities may require placement beyond their traditionally scheduled grade level and this aligns with the Montessori philosophy to "*follow the child*". The purpose of this policy is to explain criteria for early admission to Kindergarten at Three Rivers Montessori.

GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Three Rivers Montessori recognizes that beginning school before the age of five may be appropriate for some children and therefore allows early enrollment in kindergarten in select cases.

OTHER CONDITIONS

To be considered for early admission to kindergarten, a student must turn five years old on or before October 31st of that kindergarten year. Additionally, in order to be eligible for early admission consideration, components 1 through 3 must be completed by the enrollment deadline. The information will be reviewed and components 4 and 5 will be discussed at that time. If components 1 through 3 are not completed by the enrollment deadline, the child will not be included in the admission lottery. If components 1 through 3 are met, component 5 must be completed within one week following the enrollment deadline, before the admission lottery.

- 1) Three Rivers Montessori requires the child undergo a comprehensive psychological, developmental, and academic evaluation performed by a licensed psychologist, school psychologist, or relevant school officials responsible for academic testing. The school may request to see results for a variety of assessments. The child must achieve a measured score in the superior range (such as IQ is measured as 120 or above) on a nationally- normed standardized

intellectual and/or academic assessment test appropriate for 3- to 5-year-olds such as but not limited to:

- Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Early Cognitive and Academic Development • Wechsler Intelligence Scales for Children
- Stanford-Binet Intellectual Assessment Scale (5th Edition)
- Stanford-Binet, Form L-M,
- Reynolds Intellectual Assessment Scales
- Kaufman Assessment Battery for Children (2nd Edition)
- Differential Ability Scales

2) The child must be recommended for early admission to kindergarten by the psychologist and/or school official responsible for testing. The parent/guardian is solely responsible for the cost of any evaluations.

3) The child must have attended a formal preschool or other non-home educational setting and must be recommended by the staff of this other program for early admission to kindergarten through a short questionnaire about the child's development. The child's preschool teacher must contact administration of Three Rivers Montessori and provide an overview of their academic development including any relevant assessments or work samples as evidence of their verbal statement

4) The child must be physically and developmentally capable of the demands and activities of the school day (i.e. toilet, lunch, physical education routines, following a sequence of directions, etc.) Three Rivers Montessori may ask the parent to provide physician certification for this capability.

5) The child must undergo a skills and developmental screening based on the TRM Montessori curriculum. TRM staff will look for 85-90% mastery of Kindergarten year end benchmarks in order to approve early admission. This must happen within a week of the enrollment deadline, before the lottery is held.

PLACEMENT DECISIONS

Decisions for consideration for Early Admission to Kindergarten will be made by the school administration with input from the school psychologist and Kindergarten teachers. The decision of the administration is final. Once a student is enrolled in the school, the student is considered enrolled in the school until the student formally withdraws or is expelled under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act in sections 121A.40 to 121A.56.

Legal References:

Minn. Stat. § 120A.20 Early entrance into kindergarten)

Minn. Stat. § 121A.17 (State screening program)

Minn. Stat. § 121A.15 (medically acceptable immunizations)

Minn. Stat. § 124E.11, paragraph (g)

Local Resources: Minnesota Department of Education,
www.education.state.mn.us