

ENTRANCE AGE POLICY

The School Committee has the authority, within the limits of the law and State Board of Education regulation, to set the entrance ages for children admitted to kindergarten and grade one. The Committee has decided that, in order to be admitted to kindergarten in the public schools, a child must attain the age of five by August 31 of the year in which he/she will enter. To enter grade one, a child must be six years old by August 31.

The Arlington School Committee and the Arlington Public Schools strongly recommend that children reach the age of five prior to entering kindergarten, and the age of six prior to entering grade one. However, to assist in this transition period, for the school years 2002-03 through 2006-07, entrance age guidelines will be as follows:

1. For the school year beginning September, 2002, children who have reached the age of five by 12/31/02 may enter kindergarten, and children who have reached the age of six by 12/31/02 may enter grade one.

2. For the school year beginning September 2003, children who have reached the age of five by 10/31/03 may enter kindergarten. In addition, children reaching the age of five between 11/1/03 and 12/31/03, whose parents wish them to enroll, may also enter kindergarten, with the understanding that this is inconsistent with the recommendations of the Arlington Public Schools and its early education professionals. For that same year, children who have reached the age of six by 12/31/03 may enter grade one.

3. For the school year beginning September 2004, children who have reached the age of five by 8/31/04 may enter kindergarten. In addition, children reaching the age of five between 9/1/04 and 12/31/, whose parents wish them to enroll, may also enter kindergarten, with the understanding that this is inconsistent with the recommendations of the Arlington Public Schools and its early education professionals.

For that same year, children who have reached the age of six by 10/31/04 may enter grade one. In addition, children reaching the age of six between 11/1/04 and 12/31/04, whose parents wish them to enroll, may also enter grade one, with the understanding that this is inconsistent with the recommendations of the Arlington Public Schools and its early education professionals.

4. For the school year beginning September 2005, children who have reached the age of five by 8/31/05 may enter kindergarten, and children who have reached the age of six by 8/31/05 may enter grade one. In addition, children reaching the age of six between 9/1/05 and 12/31/05, whose parents wish them to enroll, may also enter grade one, with the understanding that this is inconsistent with the recommendations of the Arlington Public Schools and its early education professionals.

5. For the school year beginning September 2006, children who have reached the age of five by 8/31/06 may enter kindergarten, and children who have reached the age of six by 8/31/06 may enter grade one.

CROSS REFS: JEA, Compulsory Attendance Dates
JF, School Admissions Approved: February 12, 2002
Arlington Public Schools
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