

Elementary Early Admission Policy

Background:

This policy allows for the possibility of early admission to kindergarten, provided certain requirements are met.

I. Standard entrance to kindergarten

Beginning with the academic year of 2009-2010, children who have reached their 5th birthday on or before August 31 of the start of the school year are eligible to start kindergarten. On rare exceptions, a child may be considered eligible for early admission to kindergarten. Woods Charter School adheres to the state board policy of 1998-1999 further discussed in this document below with the following important additional points of emphasis:

A. Woods Charter Lottery system

1. All children who wish to enroll in Woods Charter School must be accepted using the standard lottery system.

2. Importantly, if a child meets the criteria for early admission to kindergarten, their application can be entered into the kindergarten lottery, but their application is subject to the same selection process as all other applications and does not ensure a position in the rising kindergarten class.

II. State Board Policy 1998-1999 Standards for Early Admission to Kindergarten

The 1997 General Assembly passed legislation allowing a child who has reached his/her fourth birthday by April 16 to enter kindergarten if he or she demonstrates an extraordinary level of academic ability and maturity. In determining eligibility, the principal shall convene a committee of educational professionals who will assist him/her in making decisions about each individual child.

Criteria that shall be considered include the following:

- Aptitude
- Achievement
- Performance
- Observable Student Behavior
- Motivation to Learn
- Student Interest

Student Aptitude

A child eligible to enter school early shall be precocious in academic and social development and score at or greater than the 98th percentile on a standard individual test of intelligence such as the **Stanford-Binet, the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence, The Kaufman Anderson**, or any other comparable tests that shall be administered by a licensed psychologist.

Achievement

Children entering kindergarten early shall be functioning two to three years beyond their peers. Children eligible for early admission to kindergarten shall score at the 98th percentile or greater on either Reading or Mathematics on a standard test of achievement such as the **Metropolitan Readiness Test, the Stanford Early School Achievement Test, the Mini Battery of Achievement, the Woodcock-Johnson, the Test of Early Mathematics TEMA), the Test of Early Reading Ability (TERA)** by a licensed psychologist or an impartial professional educator who is trained in the use of the instrument.

Performance

Children displaying a need to enter kindergarten early shall be able to perform tasks well above their age peers. Some indicators the principal may observe are the child's ability in independent reading, problem solving skills, advanced vocabulary, and some writing fluency. The parents shall submit a sample of student work showing outstanding examples of ability in any of the following areas: art, math, writing, dramatic play, creative productions, science, social interactions, etc.

Observable Student Behavior/Student Interest

If a child is to be successful in early admission, he/she should be socially and developmentally mature enough to be in a structured school setting for a full school day. The child should be capable of following verbal instructions and functioning independently within a group. The school system shall require two recommendation letters with specific documentation of physical and social maturity from preschool teachers, child care workers, pediatricians, or other adults with direct knowledge of the child.

Motivation/Student Interest

A child ready for early admission to kindergarten should be eager to learn and be excited about a new school experience. If only the parent is interested in the child's attending school, early admission is not a good option. Principals or his/her designee shall determine this information in an informal interview with the child and in a more structured interview with the parent. An appropriate interview with a child would take place in a warm and inviting environment, such as the kindergarten classroom. The child might even be invited to spend a day with a kindergarten teacher.

III. Time Lines

Due to the lottery selection process for admission to Woods Charter School, the abovementioned criteria must be completed with sufficient time before the lottery occurs.

A parent wishing to submit his/her child for consideration for early admission to kindergarten shall present to the principal, admissions coordinator, and/or Elementary director within a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the lottery. All testing must be administered and found to be acceptable prior to the lottery for consideration, and it is the responsibility of the parent to coordinate the samples of work, letters of reference, and

appropriate psychological testing of achievement and intelligence. In turn, the principal will act on the request within three (3) weeks to schedule appropriate interviews, observation, and review of the material. If the child's application is approved, it will be subject to the same rules of the Woods Charter lottery system for kindergarten selection.

If the child is admitted to kindergarten, before the end of the first ninety (90) calendar days of the child's enrollment, the principal may rescind his/her approval based on substantial evidence documenting that the child is not adjusting satisfactorily to the school setting. Before a child may be exited from school, the parent must be invited to assist in the development of intervention strategies. If the strategies are not successful and the decision is made to remove the child from school, parents must be given at least fourteen (14) days notice to arrange child care if needed.

Enacted by: _____

Title: _____

Witnessed by: _____

Title: _____

Date witnessed: _____

Revision History

Rev 1: August 13, 2009. First approved version.

Date Adopted: August 13, 2009