

## ENTRANCE AGE

### Background

The Pennsylvania School Code and applicable regulations provide school districts with some discretion in specifying the starting age for kindergarten and first grade students. Mt. Lebanon School District has determined that an entrance age policy is warranted due to the educational benefits that result from narrowing the range of ages of students in the early grades.

### Objective:

The objective of this policy is to provide a uniform rule to be followed by the administration of the School District for admission of beginning students to kindergarten and first grade.

### Policy

It is the policy of the Board that:

1. Children who reach the age of five before the eighth day of September or the first student day of the school year (whichever occurs later) in a given year are eligible to enter kindergarten in the school year commencing in August or September of that year. (Birth or baptismal certificates are required for all kindergarten pupils.)
2. Children who reach the age of six before the eighth day of September or the first student day of the school year (whichever occurs later) in a given year are eligible to enter first grade in the school year commencing in August or September of that year. The District shall admit beginners to the public schools to start school during at least the first two weeks of the annual school term provided the student meets the age eligibility specified in item #1. The term “beginners” as used in this section, shall mean any child that should enter the lowest grade of the primary school or the lowest primary class above the kindergarten level.
3. Students who are moving into the District and who have attended kindergarten or first grade in an approved school (as defined below) will be permitted to enroll in the grade to which they have been assigned by the approved school, unless the District determines that there is a sound educational basis for assignment to a different grade.
4. The District has determined that, if resident parents have enrolled their child in an approved kindergarten (as defined below), and if that child successfully completes the kindergarten year, then the child should be permitted to start first grade in the District the following school year even if the child has not attained the age of six by the dates specified above. Such a policy would put these families on equal footing with families who may move into the District from another area, where the kindergarten starting age may also be early.

5. For purposes of this Policy, the District will recognize attendance at an "approved school", which is a school that is operated by:
  - a. This District, or any other public school district;
  - b. A licensed private academic school operating in accordance with the Private Academic Schools Act (24 P.S. Section 6701) and regulations thereunder;
  - c. A school accredited by an accrediting association approved by the State Board of Education;
  - d. A school owned and operated by a bona fide religious institution which is in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations concerning religious schools; or
  - e. A private school located outside the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania which is in compliance with all of its local legal requirements similar to the Pennsylvania requirements specified in items b, c and d above.

#### Administration Responsibility

It shall be the responsibility of the administration to establish any procedures necessary to implement this policy, and to encourage parents to enroll their children in the year they first became eligible for kindergarten and first grade.

#### Communications

This policy shall be communicated to:

1. All administrative personnel and other staff concerned with implementing this procedure.
2. All parents or guardians of students where applicable.
3. The Mt. Lebanon Community

Adopted Date Unknown  
Revised September 26, 1977  
Revised December 17, 2001  
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