

## **Student Placement – Kindergarten/First Grade**

Students entering the Lowell School District at the kindergarten or first grade level must be able to demonstrate basic school readiness skills before entry.

Basic school readiness encompasses the whole child and includes social, emotional, physical and intellectual maturity. Students lacking or deficient in one or more of the skills may have delayed admission imposed. Students with deficiencies in any one of these areas will find formal schooling difficult and failure sometimes occurs. It is the intent of the Lowell School District to diminish or reduce the possibility of student failure by requiring the following:

1. Kindergarten students should be five years of age by September 1 for admission. First grade students entering school for the first time should be six years of age by September 1.
2. The District will screen each entering kindergarten student for readiness. First grade students entering school for the first time will also be screened.
3. Screening for new kindergarten and entering first grade students will begin in May preceding the year of enrollment.
4. Parent who wish for their child to be screened and/or tested for early admission to kindergarten or first grade must request this in writing by June 1 of the preceding year.
5. Students being considered for school placement who do not meet the September 1 admission birthdate may be required to take testing beyond the regular screening. This testing for readiness and cognitive ability will be administered by a qualified professional. A Child Study Team, composed of at least one administrator, two primary grade teachers, and the school psychologist, will review the test results and decide if the child should enter kindergarten or first grade early.
6. The medical office assistant and other support staff may be consulted in making readiness decisions.
7. Kindergarten and new first grade students shown to be borderline on screening or testing may be reevaluated during in-service week or the first week of the school year.
8. Parents will be contacted immediately if a delayed admission is recommended or required.
9. Parents registering new kindergarten or first grade students need to understand that placement is tentative until screening and/or testing is completed.
10. Kindergarten and first grade early admission requests that are denied by the Child Study Team may be appealed by a parent to the Superintendent and if the request is denied again, the parent can appeal to the Board of Directors.