

Arlington Public Schools
“Providing the means to accomplish dreams”

Supportive Information Sheet

Subject: SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF POLICY:

- *Policy 3108 – Students – Qualifications of Attendance and Placement*

Action

Page(s): _____ Four (4), including cover _____ (1 Policy) _____

Submitted by: _____ Dr. E. Kristine McDuffy, Superintendent _____

Date: _____ January 26, 2009 _____

Background Information:

This policy has been reviewed by the Board, recommended by legal counsel, and presented in two (2) public meetings; a Study Session on December 8, 2008, and for first reading on January 12, 2009.

Administrative Consideration:

The Board had no questions or concerns on this policy at first reading. It is therefore, being presented at this time for second reading and adoption.

Superintendent’s Recommendation:

That the Board approves for second and final reading policy 3108.

QUALIFICATIONS OF ATTENDANCE AND PLACEMENT

A. Age of Attendance Admission

Attending the schools of the District shall be recognized as a right and responsibility for those who meet the requirements prescribed by law. Every resident of the District who satisfies the minimum entry age requirement and is less than 21 years of age has the right to attend the District's schools until he/she completes high school graduation requirements. Children of age 8 and less than age 18 are required by law to attend a public school, an approved private school or educational center, unless they are receiving approved home-based instruction. Under certain circumstances children who are at least 16 and less than 18 years of age may be excused from further attendance at school. The Superintendent shall exercise his/her authority to grant exceptions when he/she determines that the student:

- ~~A. Has already attained reasonable proficiency in the branches required by law to be taught in grades 1-9;~~
- ~~B. Is regularly and lawfully engaged in a useful or remunerative occupation;~~
- ~~C. Is attending a residential institution;~~
- ~~D. Has satisfied graduation requirements in accordance with the state board of education; or~~
- ~~E. Has received a certificate of educational competence in accordance with the rules of the state board of education.~~
 - 1. Is lawfully and regularly employed, and
 - 2. Has permission of a parent, or,
 - 3. Is emancipated pursuant to Chapter 13.64 RCW; or
 - 4. Is subject to one of the other exceptions to compulsory attendance.

A resident student who has been granted an exception retains the right to enroll as a part-time student and shall be entitled to take any course, receive any ancillary services and take or receive any combination of courses and ancillary services which is offered by a public school to full-time students.

B. Entrance Qualifications

To be admitted to a kindergarten program, which commences in the fall of the year a child must be not less than 5 years of age prior to September 1 of that school year. To be admitted to a first grade program, which commences in the fall of the year a child must be not less than 6 years of age prior to September 1 of that school year. Any student not otherwise eligible for entry to the first grade who has successfully completed a state-approved kindergarten program of 450 or more hours including instruction in the essential academic learning requirements and other subjects that the District determines are appropriate shall be permitted entry into the first-grade program. If necessary, the student language arts, arithmetic, and reading may be placed in a temporary classroom assignment for the purposes of evaluation prior to making a final determination of the student's appropriate placement. Such determination shall be made no later than the 30th calendar day following the student's first day of attendance.

Exemptions

Special exemptions may be made for younger pupils who appear to be sufficiently advanced to succeed in the educational program. ~~As a minimum, eligibility for the exemption shall be based upon an analysis of the child's (1) mental ability cognitive development, (2) gross motor skills pre-academic readiness, (3) fine motor skills, and (4) visual discrimination, (5) auditory discrimination, (6) emotional/social development, and (7) language development emotional/social development.~~ The Superintendent shall identify screening processes and instruments that shall provide reliable estimates of these skills and abilities, **develop procedures for implementing this policy and establish fees to cover expenses incurred in the administration or preadmission screening processes. The District shall provide a fee waiver or a reduction in fees for low-income students whose parents are unable to pay the full cost of the preadmission screening.** ~~Where feasible, assessment devices shall be used that shall permit students who are to be considered for exemption to be compared to the level of performance that would be expected of children with a chronological age of 5 years and 6 months to 6 years for kindergarten and 6 years and 6 months to 7 years for first grade in each of the areas of ability.~~

~~Parents requesting an exemption shall provide to the district the results of an assessment using the instruments and processes approved by the superintendent and conducted by a licensed or certified psychologist. If the assessment for early entrance to kindergarten is conducted by district staff a fee not to exceed \$75 may be charged except that such fee may be reduced or waived for persons whose families, by reason of their low income, would have difficulty in paying the entire amount of such fees. For purposes of this waiver or reduction, the USDA Child Nutrition Program guidelines shall be used. The district reserves the right to reassess the child at its own cost before granting an exemption.~~

~~If a child meets or exceeds the norm criteria in each ability area, the exemption shall be granted. The parent shall be notified of the conditional status of the exemption and that it may be withdrawn if, after 2 months, the child performs substantially below the expected level in any of the ability areas.~~

~~In the event an exemption is denied, a conditional exemption is withdrawn, or a screening fee waiver is denied, the parent shall be promptly notified of the reasons and of the opportunity to have the decisions reviewed in the manner provided by the district's policy on citizen complaints.~~

C. Admission of Students Aged Twenty-One or Older

A student aged 21 or older may enroll in a school in the District under the following conditions:

1. There is available space in the school and program which the student shall attend;
2. Tuition is prepaid;
3. The student provides his/her own transportation;
4. The student resides in the state of Washington; and
5. In the judgment of the Superintendent, no adult education program is available at reasonable costs and the District's program is appropriate to the needs of the student.

D. Placement of Students on Admission

The decision of where to place a student seeking admission to the District rests with the Principal. ~~Generally students meeting the age of admission requirements or transferring from a public or approved private school shall be placed in kindergarten or first grade, or the grade from which they transferred.~~ Upon meeting District admission requirements, students transferring from a public or approved private school shall be placed in the appropriate grade. ~~The Principal shall evaluate the educational record and assessments of all other students to determine their appropriate placement.~~ A temporary classroom assignment may be made for no more than thirty (30) calendar days for the purpose of evaluation prior to making the final placement decision.

Cross References:

Board Policy 2080	Comprehensive Student Assessment System
Board Policy 2121	Substance Abuse Program
Board Policy 2140	Guidance and Counseling
Board Policy 2108	Remediation Programs
Board Policy 3114	Part-time, Home-based, or Off-campus Students
Board Policy 3121	Compulsory Attendance
Board Policy 3122	Excused and Unexcused Absences
Board Policy 4220	Complaints Concerning Staff or Program
(cf. 3114	Part-time, Home-based or Off-campus Students)
(cf. 3122	Excused and Unexcused Absences)
(cf. 4312	Complaints Concerning Staff or Program)

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Legal References:

RCW 28A.225.010	Attendance Mandatory - Age - Person Having Custody Shall Cause Child to Attend Public School - When Excused
RCW 28A.225.020	School's Duties Upon Juvenile's Failure to Attend School
RCW 28A.225.160	Qualification for Admission to District's Schools - Fees for Preadmission Screening
RCW 28A.225.220	Adults, Children from Other Districts, Agreements for Attending School - Tuition
WAC 392-335	Uniform Entry Qualifications
WAC 392-134-010	Attendance Rights of Part-Time Public School Students
WAC 392-137	Finance - Non-Resident Attendance

Management Resource:

<i>Policy News</i> , April 2006	Entrance to School Policy Changes
<i>Policy News</i> , August 1999	Districts May Set K-Screening Fees