
HORIZON SCHOOL DIVISION**POLICY HANDBOOK**

Policy Code:	IEB
Policy Title:	Entrance Age
Cross Reference:	IE
Legal Reference:	<i>Education Act</i> , S. 3 and 10, Funding Manual
Adoption Date:	October 22, 1996
Amendment or Re-affirmation Date:	February 26, 2024

POLICY

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF HORIZON SCHOOL DIVISION BELIEVES THAT EARLY CHILDHOOD IS A SIGNIFICANT PERIOD IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT. INDEPENDENCE, INITIATIVE, DECISION MAKING, CREATIVITY, THE ABILITY TO LEARN, THE ABILITY TO RELATE TO OTHERS AND FEELINGS OF SELF-WORTH ALL HAVE THEIR BEGINNINGS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD. WHAT YOUNG CHILDREN LEARN AT THIS STAGE WILL HAVE A MAJOR IMPACT ON SUCCESSFUL LEARNING EXPERIENCES IN SCHOOL, ON PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND ON FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN SOCIETY.

DEFINITIONS

Early Childhood Services refers to optional early learning programs (pre-kindergarten) and kindergarten.

Funded Student - a student is a funded student in respect of a school year if:

- a) on the September count date, meets the requirement of section 3(a)(b)(c) of the Education Act;
- b) has a parent who ordinarily resides in Canada or is an independent student between 18 and 20 years of age who resides in Alberta;
- c) is enrolled in and is attending a school operated by a board;
- d) is at least 5 years, 8 months, but less than 20 years of age as of September 1;
- e) is not a student enrolled in a home education program;
- f) is not a child to whom an early childhood services program is being provided pursuant to Section 21(1) of the Education Act; and
- g) is not an Indian residing on a reserve pursuant to the Indian Act (Canada).

Right of access is defined in the Education Act and includes every student:

- a) who at September 1 in a year is 6 years of age or older and younger than 19 years of age,
- b) who is a resident of Alberta, and
- c) who has a parent who is a resident of Canada.

The board may permit an individual:

- a) who at September 1 in a year is younger than 6 years of age or older than 18 years of age; and
- b) who complies with subsection (b) and (c) above, to have access in that year to an education program in accordance with the Education Act.

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GUIDELINES

1. Horizon’s educational programs provide access to the following minimum of hours of teacher-directed instruction per year:
 - 1.1. Children 2 years, 8 months to 3 years, 7 months – minimum of 300 hours;
 - 1.2. Children 3 years, 8 months to 4 years, 7 months – minimum of 400 hours; and
 - 1.3. Children 4 years, 8 months and older – minimum of 475 hours.
2. Designated school for enrollment eligibility is addressed in Policy IC.
3. Early admission into a particular program means that the student shall have additional time within that program and shall not constitute early entry and progression through the pre-K to grade 12 program.
4. The Primary Programs Framework for Teaching and Learning, Kindergarten to Grade 3 has been developed to provide the philosophical and theoretical foundation for teaching and learning in Pre-Kindergarten through grade three and includes ten Alberta Education principles.

REGULATIONS

1. A parent may enroll a child in the jurisdiction’s pre-kindergarten program when their age of entry is four years of age on or before December 31 of that year.
2. A parent may enroll a child in the jurisdiction’s kindergarten program when their child is eligible for funding. Eligible children’s age of entry is five years of age on or before December 31 of that year.
3. A parent may enroll a child in the jurisdiction’s Grade one program when their child is eligible for funding. Eligible children’s age of entry is six years of age on or before December 31 of that year.
4. The school Principal shall provide parents with a copy of this policy at the time the parents make a request for admission to a pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, or grade 1 program.
5. The following children may be approved for early entry to an early learning program and be offered additional program services with approval from the principal and early learning coordinator.
 - 5.1. Children, 3 years of age as of September 1 of the current school year, with a diagnosed developmental delay (e.g. speech and/or language).
 - 5.2. An English Language Learner younger than one described in policy may be given consideration for early placement to gain additional opportunities within their entry program.
6. Consideration shall also be given to the availability of funding, the characteristics of the class in which the child would be placed, and the number of students in the class needing support services.
7. Normally, a child transferring into the Division, and who was enrolled in their designated school, shall be admitted to the school in the same program or grade placement as they were in their former jurisdiction

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provided that the parent(s)/legal guardian(s) is a resident of the Division and provided that an appropriate program can be offered.

8. Proof of age and documentation of citizenship or residency status is required at the time of registration.