

**CCCS POLICY
REGARDING EARLY ADMISSION OF STUDENTS UNDER
CALIFORNIA EDUCATION CODE SECTION 48000**

Preface

California Education Code section 48000(a)(4) requires that children enrolled in Kindergarten shall be five (5) years old on or before September 1 of the school year. However, subsection (b) reads as follows:

(b) The governing board of a school district maintaining one or more kindergartens may, on a case-by-case basis, admit to a kindergarten a child having attained the age of five years at any time during the school year with the approval of the parent or guardian, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The governing board determines that the admittance is in the best interests of the child.
- (2) The parent or guardian is given information regarding the advantages and disadvantages and any other explanatory information about the effect of this early admittance.

Findings

The documentation supporting the age requirements for entry into Kindergarten is adequate to support the Legislature's findings. The CCCS Board therefore finds that it is not in the best interests of many children to enter Kindergarten before having attained their fifth birthday.

However, part of our charter/core beliefs/governing principles is flexibility in educational methods and approaches. Therefore, the CCCS Board also finds that the Legislature must have considered possible exceptions to the "rule" and also finds adequate intentional support for the Legislature's findings that some children may be ready despite not having attained their fifth birthday on or before September 1 of the school year.

Policy

It shall be the CCCS Board's policy in cases where a parent seeks early admission for their child, that the following criteria shall be used prior to the Board taking any action and that absent completion of such criteria, it shall be the policy that early admission is not in the best interests of the child.

1. Early admission shall only be considered for a child whose birthday falls within ten (10) calendar days of the then-current statutory deadline, currently September 1.
2. Further, prior to any application being made for early admission, the child shall have been enrolled in an educational day care or pre-K program for at least one academic year.
 - a. Parents or guardians must provide proof of such enrollment prior to moving forward with the early admission process.
3. Prior to evaluation of the student, both custodial parents or guardians, shall meet with the Kindergarten teacher and/or Principal of the school to discuss the advantages and disadvantages to their child and to the class as a whole of such early admission.
 - a. At such meeting, the parents or guardians shall be provided with appropriate literature – whether printed or through online resources – to review.

4. If after review of such information, the parents or guardians wish to proceed with the early admission process, the child shall be evaluated at least twice – once before December 1 and once prior to the Board considering such admission.
 - a. The evaluation shall be conducted by the Kindergarten teacher in a manner consistent with other such evaluations given to entering Kindergarten children.
 - b. The results of both evaluations shall be shared with the parents or guardians and with the principal.
5. If the student performs at or within one standard deviation below the mean on the second evaluation and the student has shown overall progress between such evaluations, the principal shall take the matter to the Board for approval.
6. The Board may, in its reasonable discretion, grant or deny the application.
 - a. Additionally, the Board may condition the approval of the application on a third evaluation within the time frames given to other children admitted to Kindergarten.

Unanimously adopted by the Children’s Community Charter School Board of Directors at its regular meeting on February 9, 2015.

ATTEST:

Karen Christ, Secretary