

Subject: Admission to and Placement in Kindergarten
Effective: April 1, 1983
Revised: June 1994; September 1, 2001

1.0 PURPOSE

This policy provides assistance in interpreting the [Education Act](#) and regulations as they relate to the age requirements and grade placement for children entering the public school system.

This policy was previously titled Policy 301 – Admission to Grade 1.

2.0 APPLICATION

The policy applies to all New Brunswick public schools.

3.0 DEFINITIONS

Initial grade placement means the grade into which a student is placed upon first entering a public school in a given school year.

4.0 LEGAL AUTHORITY

[Education Act](#)

Section 11 – Placement of pupils

11(1) The superintendent concerned shall determine the placement of pupils in classes, grades, programs, services and schools according to the needs of the pupils and the resources of the school district.

11(2) For the purposes of placement, kindergarten shall be considered the first year of public education.

[School Administration Regulation](#) under the [Education Act](#) (97-150)

Section 11 – School admission

11(2) No child shall be eligible for admission to kindergarten unless the child has proof of attainment of the full age of five years on or before the thirty-first day of December of the school year.

5.0 GOALS / PRINCIPLES

5.1 The Department of Education recognizes that a number of factors must be considered in assessing the stage of an individual child's social and intellectual development, and in determining school readiness.

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- 5.2 Professional educators are uniquely qualified to objectively assess and determine the appropriate placement of a child within the public school system.
- 5.3 Kindergarten is an integrated part of the prescribed public school program, and provides a valuable foundation for further learning.
- 5.4 The age requirements for school admission establish a clear and uniform starting point for all children, and must be strictly adhered to.

6.0 REQUIREMENTS / STANDARDS

School Entry Age

- 6.1 In most cases, a child will begin school in the year he/she turns five years old. Section 15 of the [Education Act](#) states that a child must begin kindergarten at the beginning of the school year in the calendar year in which he/she turns five years old unless
 - a) the child is exempted from school attendance under section 15 of the [Education Act](#); or,
 - b) the child is still four years of age on September 1 of that calendar year. In such a case, the child may, at his/her parents' discretion, enter school either that year or the following year.
- 6.2 As stated in section 11 of the [School Administration Regulation](#) (97-150), a child may not attend a New Brunswick public school until the first school day of the school year that falls in the calendar year in which he/she turns five years old.
- 6.3 Where a child transfers to a New Brunswick public school from any school outside New Brunswick, the child is not entitled to early admission (i.e. earlier than provided for in section 6.2 of this policy) to a New Brunswick public school even if he/she had been previously enrolled in a school outside New Brunswick.

Placement in Kindergarten

- 6.4 Kindergarten is a compulsory part of the New Brunswick public school program. All New Brunswick children entering school for the first time will be enrolled in kindergarten.
- 6.5 When a child transfers to a New Brunswick public school from a privately or independently operated kindergarten within or outside New Brunswick, the child's **initial grade placement** will be:
 - (a) in kindergarten, if the child is less than six years of age on December 31 of the given school year; or,
 - (b) in Grade 1, if the child is at least six years of age on December 31 of the given school year.

7.0 GUIDELINES/RECOMMENDATIONS

Once an initial placement of a student has been made in accordance with section 6.0 of this policy, the superintendent may, in accordance with any District Education Council policy, assess the capabilities of the student and determine the student's appropriate grade, class, program, service and school placement "according to the needs of the pupil and the resources of the school district" (section 11, [Education Act](#)).

8.0 DISTRICT EDUCATION COUNCIL POLICY-MAKING

The District Education Council may make policy, not inconsistent with provincial policy, respecting school admission and placement.

9.0 REFERENCES

None

10.0 CONTACTS FOR MORE INFORMATION

Department of Education – Educational Programs and Services Branch
(506) 444-4654

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