

**EARLY ADMISSIONS TO FIRST GRADE, KINDERGARTEN
AND PREKINDERGARTEN POLICY**

I. Early Admission to Kindergarten and Grade 1

- A. The Talbot County Board of Education believes that children who have superior ability and who demonstrate advanced academic achievement should be provided the opportunity to enroll in intellectually appropriate classes and educational settings. The Board recognizes that acceleration has long been used as a practice documents the academic benefits and positive outcomes of personal acceleration for carefully selected students. Therefore, the Board directs the Superintendent to establish procedures whereby students who meet established criteria may be considered candidates for advanced grade placement in Kindergarten and beyond.

II. Early Admission to Pre-Kindergarten

- A. Pre-Kindergarten remains a targeted program for students who meet certain eligibility guidelines. However, the Board recognizes that some very young children, particularly those demonstrating at risk factors for later school success, may benefit from early admissions into a formal Pre-kindergarten program. Children who are 3 years old and demonstrate both eligibility and educational need may be considered for early entry into the Pre-kindergarten program.

III. Directions for Administrative Regulations

- A. The Superintendent is directed to develop appropriate Administrative Regulations to implement this policy. These should include, but not be limited to defining:
 - 1) A process by which a parent may request consideration for early admission and may provide data that will be considered in the screening process.
 - 2) A screening committee that will include staff from various relevant backgrounds to review all such requests.
 - 3) Identification of multiple measures that will be used to assess the need for the early admission.
 - 4) A process by which a parent will be notified of the screening results and the committee's decision regarding early admission.

Early admission to Pre-kindergarten or Kindergarten or Grade 1 will not constitute automatic admission to the next grade the following year.

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