

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

SECTION: 200 PUPILS
TITLE: Admission of Students
ADOPTED: April 27, 1981
REVISED: December 15, 2016

201. ADMISSION OF STUDENTS

Authority

The School Reform Commission shall establish age requirements for the admission of students to first grade and to kindergarten that are consistent with state law and regulations and sound educational practice.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

Definitions

Beginners are students entering the lowest grade of the primary school above the kindergarten level.[\[4\]](#)

Compulsory school age for the School District of Philadelphia shall be six (6) years on or before September 1.[\[5\]](#)

Guidelines

First Grade

A child who is of compulsory school age shall be admitted to school during the first two (2) weeks of the annual school term and at any time thereafter during the school year.[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#)

Beginners shall be admitted to first grade provided the child has attained the compulsory school age of six (6) years on or before September 1.[\[1\]](#)[\[5\]](#)[\[7\]](#)

Upon written request of the parent/guardian, a child whose chronological age is not less than five (5) years and seven (7) months on September 1, and who has completed a full-day kindergarten program may be admitted to first grade if such early admission is recommended by a district psychologist and approved by the district's administrative designee on the basis of a developmental standard set by the district.[\[8\]](#)

The district is not required to admit as a beginner any child whose age is less than the district's established compulsory school age.[\[8\]](#)

Kindergarten

Children shall be admitted to kindergarten provided the child has attained the age of five (5) years on or before September 1.[9]

A child who has reached the compulsory age of six (6) by September 1, but has not attended a full year of kindergarten may, at the written request of the parent/guardian, attend kindergarten instead of first grade, if space is available.

Prekindergarten

Children shall be admitted to the district's preschool services programs provided the child has attained the age of three (3) years before September 1.

Home Education Program Students

The compulsory school age of six (6) years old on or before September 1 shall not apply to children who are participating in a home education program. For those children, the compulsory school age is eight (8) years old.[10][5][6]

If a parent/guardian plans to home school their child, the parent/guardian must file an intent to home school with the district when the child turns six (6) years of age. However, the home education program is not required to begin until the child is eight (8) years old.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for establishing administrative procedures for registration that:

1. Require the parent/guardian of each student who registers for entrance to school to submit proof of age, residency, and required immunizations. [11][12]
2. Establish an order of priority for admission to the district's kindergarten program.

Legal References:

1. 24 P.S. 1301
2. 22 PA Code 11.12
3. 22 PA Code 11.41
4. 24 P.S. 1304
5. 24 P.S. 2103
6. 24 P.S. 1326
7. 22 PA Code 11.15
8. 22 PA Code 11.16
9. 22 PA Code 11.14

10. Pol. 137

11. Pol. 200

12. Pol. 203

24 P.S. 503

22 PA Code 4.41

22 PA Code 11.13