

Early Admission for Kindergarten and First-Grade Students

A school may accept students of any age the school intends to instruct. However, only those students who meet the statutory definition of “pupils enrolled” may be included on the school’s membership report and be considered eligible to receive PSCP state aid payments. The information in this bulletin is based on Wis. Stats. §§118.60 and 119.23 and Wis. Admin. Code PI 35 and PI 48.

The statutory definition of “pupils enrolled” under sec. 121.004(7), Wis. Stats., provides, **with one exception for public school boards of common or union high school districts**, that only students who meet the age requirements of sec. 118.14, Wis. Stats., may be counted as pupils enrolled in the school. Under sec. 118.14, Wis. Stats., no student may be admitted to kindergarten or first grade unless the student is four, five, or six years of age on or before September 1 in the year he or she wishes to enter school. Specifically, sec. 118.14, Wis. Stats., states:

(1) Except as provided in s. 120.12 (25):

(a) No child may be admitted to a 4-year-old kindergarten unless he or she is 4 years old on or before September 1 in the year that he or she proposes to enter school.

(b) No child may be admitted to a 5-year-old kindergarten unless he or she is 5 years old on or before September 1 in the year he or she proposes to enter school.

(c) No child may be admitted to the 1st grade unless he or she is 6 years old on or before September 1 in the year he or she proposes to enter school.

The exception to this age requirement, found under sec. 120.12(25), Wis. Stats., **allows a public school board of a common or union high school district** to admit and receive state aid for students younger than the above-referenced ages if the **public school board** prescribes procedures, conditions, and standards for early admission to kindergarten and first grade.

Because the exception to the age requirement is limited to procedures prescribed by certain public school boards, the exception does not apply to private schools participating in the PSCP.

Therefore, schools participating in the PSCP may not receive state aid payments unless students are four years of age for four-year-old kindergarten, five years of age for five-year-old kindergarten, or six years of age for first grade on or before September 1 in the year the student wishes to enter school.