

STUDENTS

Age of Entrance

The following procedures, based upon the Virginia Code, shall govern the age of entrance for students in Prince William County Public Schools (PWCS):

- I. A child who is five years old on or before September 30 will be allowed to enroll in kindergarten in PWCS.

Children who do not meet the age requirement for kindergarten will not be enrolled in kindergarten or assessed for placement in kindergarten in PWCS.

As an exception, a child who was permitted to enroll in public kindergarten in another state prior to reaching age five by September 30, and who, accompanied by a parent/guardian, moves into Prince William County after the start of school may be allowed to continue in kindergarten. This exception does not apply to students who attended a private kindergarten program or those instances in which a child was sent to another state to reside apart from the family for the purpose of attending school.

- II. The children of active duty military parents (active duty means full-time duty status in the active uniformed service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. §§ 1209 and 1211) who move to Virginia have provisions covered under the interstate military compact. This provision of the interstate military compact applies only to students of active duty military families transferring into Virginia from an out-of-state Local Education Agency (LEA).

The children of active duty military parents will be enrolled in kindergarten even when the child has not started school, but the child would be attending kindergarten in an out-of-state LEA, if the military family relocation had not taken place.

The children of active duty military parents shall be allowed to continue their enrollment at the grade level if the receiving state commensurate with their grade level (including kindergarten) from an LEA in the sending state at the time of the military family relocation, regardless of minimum age. A student who has satisfactorily completed the prerequisite grade level in the LEA in the sending state shall be eligible for enrollment in the next highest grade level in the receiving state, regardless of minimum age. A student transferring after the start of the school year in the receiving state shall enter the school in the receiving state on their validated level from an LEA in the sending state.

- III. Once a student is officially enrolled in kindergarten, the student is expected to attend school on a regular basis except in cases of normally excused absences.

- IV. For children who did not meet the kindergarten age requirement of five years of age by September 30, and whose parent/guardian is attempting to enroll the child in first grade, the following criteria must be met:
- A. The student must have attended and successfully completed the kindergarten program of a school accredited by the Virginia Council of Private Education (VCPE), National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), or the equivalent. Instruction in the home of a child or children by the parent/guardian or other person having control or charge of the child or children shall not be classified as an accredited kindergarten program. The parent/guardian must provide evidence (report card or transcript) of successful kindergarten program completion.
 - B. The parent/guardian must make the request to the principal during the designated kindergarten registration dates. The principal makes the final decision regarding grade placement; and
 - C. The parent/guardian must complete the Enrollment Agreement form (attachment) at the time of registration. This form officially informs the parent/guardian that enrollment in first grade is on a conditional basis. As indicated in the Enrollment Agreement, unsatisfactory progress in first grade may result in kindergarten placement. Changes in kindergarten grade placement, if warranted, will be made in the student's first month of school.
- V. A child who has not attended kindergarten but meets the age requirements for first grade may be admitted to first grade. After appropriate informal and/or formal observation and assessment, the principal, with the consent of the parents/guardians, may recommend alternative placement.
- VI. A child who will be six years old on or before September 30 of the school year must attend school.

The Associate Superintendent for Student Learning and Accountability (or designee) is responsible for implementing and monitoring this regulation.

This regulation and related policy shall be reviewed at least every five years and revised as needed.

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ENROLLMENT AGREEMENT

I request that my son/daughter, _____,
CHILD'S FULL NAME
be allowed to enroll in grade one based upon my presentation of documentation proving the successful completion of a kindergarten program accredited by the Virginia Council of Private Education (VCPE), National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), or the equivalent. My child was not five years of age by September 30, the age of entrance to kindergarten in Virginia, he/she is younger than students who attended Prince William County Public Schools kindergarten and we are requesting that he/she enter grade one. I understand that his/her continued enrollment in grade one is dependent upon demonstrated ability to maintain satisfactory progress. I also understand that placement in kindergarten may occur should he/she not demonstrate the expected progress in grade one within the first month of school.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Date _____

Child's Birthdate _____

School _____