



## HINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS POLICY REGARDING KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

### Revision of Policy 6.2

**6.2 AGE REQUIREMENTS.** The Massachusetts Board of Education has established that education is compulsory for students beginning with the September of the calendar year in which a student turns six. The maximum age of compulsory attendance is 16. It is the policy of the Hingham School Committee that a child entering kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before August 31 and 6 years old on or before August 31 to enter grade 1.

Recognizing that it is generally in the best interest of a child and his/her classmates to maintain classes within a reasonable chronological and developmental range, the Hingham Public Schools expect parents to enroll their children in kindergarten for the first year they are eligible to attend. Parents with questions about their child's readiness should contact the principal of the school at which their child will attend.

In the sole discretion of the Superintendent of Schools or her/his designee, a child whose 6th birthday falls on September 1 through September 30, or a child who has moved to Hingham from a city or town with a minimum age requirement in effect that is subsequent to August 31 may be admitted to and begin grade 1 upon submission of documentation that she/he has successfully completed a public or private Kindergarten program during the prior year and demonstrated "readiness" for grade 1.

5/18/87 // 4/10/95 // 5/9/05 // 1/12/15 // 3/28/17 // 1/8/18

### KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT PRACTICES Changes for School Year 2018-2019

1. We will provide more preliminary information to parents of age-eligible children (those who will turn five on or before August 31, 2018). This information will be focused on developing an understanding of the K Curriculum Standards and the readiness expectations for entry to Kindergarten that are shared by K staff and other educators and specialists. A parent information session is scheduled for January 9, 2018 at 7:00p.m. in the Central Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. HPS will engage with directors of some of our local pre-schools with a goal of all being on the same page with respect to (1) Hingham enrollment practices and recommendations for K entry and (2) an understanding of the HPS Kindergarten curriculum and the expected readiness skills.

3. We will initiate a more formal pre-enrollment process to identify all children eligible for K enrollment for Fall 2018. In addition to students identified through the Town Clerk's annual January census each year, we will reach out to parents of age-eligible children through school email, local pre-schools, our Facebook page and website.
4. We believe that entry to school at age 5 is the right decision for most children. In fact, more than 80% of children already do that. Therefore, we are very comfortable in both making and publicizing a strong statement recommending K enrollment in the year that the child is age-eligible and in posting such notice prominently: in the enrollment packet, as part of the annual press release notification of the enrollment timeline, in the annual memo to the private preschools about the enrollment process, adding the message to the HPS K webpage, and noting it in school-to-home e-mails and on Facebook for those families that already are part of our school attending community.
5. We will add to our recommendation, as stated above, the request that any parent who has concerns about the readiness of his/her child (1) schedule a meeting with the school principal to discuss the matter further, and (2) bring to the school's attention any special circumstances that support or document the parent concern. In the spirit of full disclosure, we also will discuss with such parents the possibility of a further change in practice or policy in the following year.
6. We will track the enrollment numbers, the number of requests to meet with us to discuss deferring entry to kindergarten to age six, and the number of those requests that are deemed to be justifiable by a committee including the 4 elementary principals and the CO administrators. Our goal for the 2018-2019 school year is to reduce the number and percent of such students to a percent that is more consistent with that in comparable public schools.