

590 EARLY ENTRANCE AND GRADE ACCELERATION POLICY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide procedures for the consideration of early entrance for students in kindergarten and grade acceleration for students in grades 1-6.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

A. It is Star of the North Academy School's policy that a child applying to Kindergarten must turn 5 years of age on or before Sept. 1st of the year they will be starting school unless the child turns 5 by October 1st and demonstrates readiness through a comprehensive evaluation that uses valid and reliable instrumentation, is aligned with state kindergarten expectations, and includes a parent report and teacher observations of the child's knowledge, skills, and abilities.

B. Grade Acceleration – is allowed and determined on a case-by-case basis. Students who have met the criteria set by Star of the North Academy will be allowed to accelerate one grade level during their K-6 experience. The decision made by the administration shall be final.

III. PROCEDURES

Grade Acceleration

It is the policy of Star of the North Academy to allow grade acceleration providing that the elementary and middle school student meets the following criteria:

1. The parent initiates the request with the Director, Assistant Director, or teacher. All requests should be submitted by April 1 for the following school year. Parents will be notified regarding the dispensation of the request no later than June 15. Requests will not be considered after April 1.
2. The Assistant Director will arrange a meeting with the parent and the student's teacher(s).
3. The purpose of the meeting will be to gather data regarding the student's current achievement and abilities. It may be necessary to request further testing in order to make a decision. If that is the case, the parent is responsible for any costs incurred in this process.
4. After all necessary data has been collected the Director, Assistant Director, and teacher(s), will make a decision as to whether the student shall be accelerated. The Assistant Director is responsible for communicating the decision to the parent.
5. If the student meets the criteria set by Star of the North Academy, additional testing may be necessary to determine correct placement within the new grade level.

Evaluation and Review

Placement decisions made via grade acceleration will be reviewed within six weeks of placement. The administration retains the right to revoke the decision if the student is not successful in the new placement.

Legal Reference: (Minn. Stat. §120B.15)

Legal References: Minn. Stat. §120A.20, subdivision 1 (age limitations; pupils)