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Adopted: May 19, 2014

## **509.1 EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN POLICY**

### **I. PURPOSE**

State law requires that Kindergarten students must attain the age of five years on or prior to September 1 of the enrollment year, unless the local school board has adopted a policy for early enrollment in select cases. Some students with exceptionally advanced abilities may require placement beyond their traditionally scheduled grade level. The purpose of this policy is to explain criteria for early admission to Kindergarten at DaVinci Academy of Arts and Science.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

DaVinci Academy of Arts and Science recognizes that some children may have exceptional skills and are ready to begin their formal education before the age of five.

DaVinci Academy will consider for early entrance to Kindergarten, only those children whose fifth birth date falls between September 2<sup>nd</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup>. Early entrance candidates must show emotional maturity, good social adjustment, exceptional pre-academic skills and superior intelligence. There must be evidence that the child will experience success with the total school program.

### **III. OTHER CONDITIONS**

In order to be eligible for early admission consideration, component 1 must be completed at least one week before the admission lottery date, and components 2 and 3 must be completed by June 1<sup>st</sup>. The information will be reviewed and then components 4 and 5 will be discussed at that time. If component 1 is not completed on time, the child will not be included in the admission lottery.

**Component 1:** While we acknowledge that early care and education prior to kindergarten can take place in a variety of environments and with a range of caregivers, the program or caregiver must make a recommendation for early admission to Kindergarten through our short questionnaire about the child's development. The child's teacher or caregiver must complete DaVinci Academy's Child Development Questionnaire. The parent should give the questionnaire to their child's teacher, or if completing themselves, provide a stamped addressed envelope so that the questionnaire can be returned directly to the Academic Director at DaVinci Academy.

**Component 2:** DaVinci Academy of Arts and Science requires the child to undergo a comprehensive psychological, developmental, and academic evaluation performed by a licensed psychologist, school psychologist or relevant school officials responsible for academic testing. The school may request to see results for a variety of assessments. The child must achieve a measured score in the superior range in a nationally-normed standardized intellectual and/or academic assessment test appropriate for 3 to 5 year olds such as but not limited to:

- Weschler Intelligence Scale
- Stanford-Binet Intellectual Assessment Scale (5<sup>th</sup> Edition)
- Stanford-Binet Form L – M
- Reynolds Intellectual Assessment Scales
- Kaufman Assessment Battery for Children (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)
- Differential Ability Scales

The parent/guardian is solely responsible for the cost of any evaluations.

**Component 3:** The child must be recommended for early admission to Kindergarten by the psychologist and/or school official responsible for testing.

**Component 4:** The child must be physically and developmentally capable of the demands and activities of the school day (i.e. lunch, physical education routines, following a sequence of directions, etc.).

#### **IV. PLACEMENT DECISIONS**

Decisions for consideration for Early Admission to Kindergarten will be made by the Academic Director with input from the school psychologist and Kindergarten teachers, and above listed components along with other available data. The decision of the administration is final.

Note: All decisions for early admission to Kindergarten are provisional (i.e. on a trial basis.) If it is later determined by the faculty and administration that the early admission is not resulting in a successful outcome, placement at DaVinci Academy of Arts and Science may need to be reconsidered. Parents/Legal Guardians will be required to sign an agreement to the above terms at the time they apply for Early Admission.