

## **EARLY KINDERGARTEN ADMISSION 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. This policy provides guidance to employees, families, and students regarding early kindergarten admission.

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

Aspire Academy is dedicated to the continuous development of each student. Students will be placed in the instructional level best suited to their academic, social, and emotional needs. Early admission to kindergarten may be appropriate for some children, and this policy allows for early enrollment in select cases.

#### **A. Kindergarten Admission.**

1. Children whose fifth (5th) birthday is on or before September 1 are eligible for kindergarten entrance without assessment.
2. Children whose fifth (5th) birthday is on September 2 or thereafter through October 31 may be considered for admission to kindergarten based upon an assessment procedure that is described in Section IV (below).
3. Children whose fifth (5th) birthday is on September 2 or thereafter who transfer from another public or a nonpublic school as a kindergarten student may be admitted to kindergarten.

### **III. OTHER CONDITIONS**

In order to be eligible for early kindergarten admission consideration, families must submit a letter of request for early admission to the school along with their kindergarten application before the deadline for on-time application to kindergarten. Families who apply after the deadline for on-time application to kindergarten will be notified if there are open spots in kindergarten. If there are openings, the family must submit a letter of request for early admission within three days of receiving official school notice of the open spot.

### **IV. EARLY KINDERGARTEN ADMISSION PROCEDURES**

- A. Children who are five years of age on or before September 1 of the calendar school year may enroll in kindergarten. The school will begin the application process for kindergarten in November of the prior school year.

- B. Parents interested in early kindergarten admission for their children will submit a kindergarten application to School and have their children complete the early childhood screening process.
- C. School-based assessment teams will interview parents and, with their permission, current or previous daycare or preschool placements regarding the child's readiness for kindergarten.
- D. The school-based assessment team will review the interview data and schedule observations in a Pre-kindergarten or kindergarten classroom of a child who meets initial criteria as ready for early entry. Children's social-emotional-behavioral competencies will be rated during these observations. School staff will report the results of this observation to the parents.

Adopted: July 2019