

TWIN LAKES STEM ACADEMY EARLY ENTRANCE AND GRADE ACCELERATION POLICY (590)

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 1-8.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. Early Entrance into Kindergarten is allowed and determined on a case-by-case basis. Twin Lakes STEM Academy has adopted the following policy for early Kindergarten enrollment for students who attain the age of five by October 15th of the enrollment year.
- B. Grade Acceleration is allowed and determined on a case-by-case basis. Students who have met the criteria set by Twin Lakes STEM Academy will be allowed to accelerate one grade level during their K-8 experience. The decision made by the administration shall be final.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Early Entrance into Kindergarten

a. Process

- i. Children will be considered for early entrance into Kindergarten if their fifth birthday falls between September 2 and October 15.
- ii. All early entrance applicants must participate in an individual Kindergarten readiness assessment at Twin Lakes STEM Academy prior to the first day of school according to a schedule adopted by the administration and kindergarten teachers.
- iii. A Twin Lakes STEM Academy teacher and/or administrator will conduct the readiness assessment, which will include teacher observations and evaluations in the areas of cognitive, social and emotional development, and self-regulation. All elements of the readiness assessment will use valid and reliable instrumentation consistent with the Kindergarten curriculum and program at Twin Lakes STEM Academy and consistent with Minnesota state standards.

- iv. During or before the readiness assessment (at the direction of the evaluator), the applicant's parent/guardian must answer a survey that aids in assessing applicants' cognitive, social, and emotional readiness for Kindergarten.

b. Determination

- i. After the readiness assessment, the determination for eligibility for early entrance to Kindergarten is made by a consensus decision of the evaluator in consultation with the Executive Director of the school. Children must demonstrate superior intellectual ability.
 - 1. Children must demonstrate pre-academic/academic skills above average when compared to the skills of the majority of entering kindergartners.
 - 2. Children must demonstrate socialization and behavioral skills more advanced than the majority of entering kindergartners, based upon results of a normative behavior rating scale, parent report, and Kindergarten teacher observations made during a simulated kindergarten experience.
- ii. Results and the final determination will be shared with parents and through a written assessment report promptly and before the first day of school.
- iii. If accepted for early entrance, students may then be enrolled for Kindergarten.

B. Grade Acceleration

It is the policy of Twin Lakes STEM 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 Executive Director or teacher. All requests should be submitted by April 1st for the following school year. Parents will be notified regarding the dispensation of the request no later than June 15th. Requests will not be considered after April 1st.
- 2. The Executive 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 Executive Director, and teacher(s), will make a decision as to whether the student shall be accelerated. The Executive Director is responsible for communicating the decision to the parent.
5. If the student meets the criteria set by Twin Lakes STEM Academy, additional testing may be necessary to determine correct placement within the new grade level.

B. Evaluation and Review

1. Placement decisions made via early entrance 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.
2. 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.

Adopted: 02/03/2015

Revised: 6/4/2025