

# 594 KINDERGARTEN ENTRY DATE

## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish a clear statement regarding the kindergarten entry date.

## II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The Dover-Eyota School District believes that numerous school readiness skills are important to the child's overall functioning in kindergarten, including but not limited to: personal and social development, physical development, language and literacy, the arts, and mathematical thinking. While some assessments can be made in some of these areas, it is the position of the district that a comprehensive assessment of the entire child is not available to provide the basis for early entry into kindergarten. Therefore, to provide students the opportunity to be successful in kindergarten and in subsequent grade levels where academic rigor and social demands increase, the Dover-Eyota School District will follow Minnesota's law which states that a student must have their fifth birthday prior to September 1 of the enrollment year in order to enter kindergarten.

## III. PROCEDURES

A. A student must be five years of age by September 1 of the enrollment year to be admitted into kindergarten.

B. Since young students develop at different rates in various school readiness domains, some students who turn five prior to September 1 may not be developmentally ready, or may not have acquired the social-emotional or physical skills necessary to be successful in kindergarten. In such cases, the student's entry date may be moved back one year. This decision will primarily be the parents' responsibility with input from the elementary principal and kindergarten teachers.

7/9/12 version