

NEW HAMPSHIRE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT 29

CHESTERFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT

JEB

AGE OF ENTRANCE

Category R

A student may enter grade one if his/her chronological age will be six before September 30 of the year of entering school.

A student may enter kindergarten if his/her chronological age will be five before September 30 of the year of entering school.

A birth certificate must be presented upon registration as proof of the date of birth.

In-coming transfer students in grades 2-8, inclusive, will be initially placed in accordance with the data forwarded by the sending District. Such placement is tentative and subject to reassignment by the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee.

In-coming transfer students in grade 1 will only be initially admitted to grade 1 if their chronological age will be six before September 30 of the year of entering school or if previously enrolled in grade 1 in another community. Such placement is tentative and subject to reassignment by the Superintendent.

Legal Reference:

RSA 193:1, Duty of Parent; Compulsory Attendance by Pupil

Revised: 9/12/11

Approved CSB: 10/10/11

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE TO ACCOMPANY POLICY JEB
ENTRANCE AND ASSIGNMENT OF PUPILS

In admitting and assigning students to the Chesterfield School, the school staff that is given this responsibility by the Superintendent of Schools will utilize the following criteria:

1. In general, pupils transferring into the school system will be placed in the same grade level and program as in the school from which they transferred. (Exceptions may include students transferring from a private kindergarten or preschool setting.)
2. Identified students will be placed under regulations of R.S.A. 186-c.
3. Entering kindergarten pupils shall have evidence of reaching the age of five years on or before September 30 following the opening of school in September.
4. Entering grade one pupils shall have evidence of reaching the age of six years on or before September 30 following the opening of school in September.
 - a. Requests to waive the above criteria must be in writing and submitted to the Superintendent no later than May 30 preceding the opening of school.
 - b. With early entrance requests, the administration will arrange to have the child assessed and/or tested, using appropriate school tests, at parental expense. Parents are required to pay this expense prior to the assessments being given. Checks should be made out to the Chesterfield School District in the fee schedule available from the administration.

The school asks that the parents give:

- (1) Permission to contact and speak with child's preschool teacher
- (2) Permission to visit and observe child in preschool setting, if necessary
- (3) Child visitation to kindergarten class for period of time without parent
- (4) Assessments may be completed by any of the following members of the team: a kindergarten teacher, speech and language teacher, physical education/occupational therapist reading specialist, first grade teacher, title one staff, guidance counselor, school psychologist, special education teacher or the principal.

Parents of children becoming residents of the school district between May 30 and the opening of the next school year may apply to the Superintendent for Towns' office in accordance with the above procedure.

- c. The assessments/tests that your child will participate in provide the placement team with information on your child's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical readiness for entering kindergarten and will serve as the basis for granting or denying the request for early admission. The final decision on the matter will be made by the Principal. Appeals from that decision may be made to the Superintendent.

Change of School Assignment (Out-of-District)

The Superintendent of Schools shall have authority to reassign a Chesterfield resident pupil to a public school district or to approve a request from another superintendent to accept a transfer of a pupil from another school district if:

1. The pupil's parent or legal guardian petitions the Superintendent for a change of school assignment or consents to the Superintendent's recommendation for such a change; and,

2. The Superintendent determines that such a change would be in the pupil's best interest; and,
3. The other school district's Superintendent (or, in the case of an SAU 29 school district, the Superintendent for Towns, the Superintendent for Keene, and the principals of the affected schools) has/have also approved the reassignment or transfer and has/have agreed that the pupil's best interests are served by the reassignment or transfer; and,
4. The other school district's superintendent (or, in the case of an SAU 29 school district, the Superintendent for Towns and the Superintendent for Keene) has/have agreed to a proper tuition payment for the pupil; and,
5. The transportation costs for the reassignment or transfer shall be the sole responsibility of the pupil's parent or guardian (or other suitable transportation arrangements have been agreed to which do not involve additional costs to the Chesterfield School District); and,
6. The total reassignments or transfers in any one school year shall not exceed one percent of the average daily membership, or 5 percent of the average daily membership in residence of the Chesterfield School, whichever is greater. Provided, however, where such reassignment or transfer would exceed such percentage limitations, the school board may approve such reassignment or transfer upon recommendation of the Superintendent.

A pupil's "best interest" shall not be determined upon the perceived quality or availability of the academic and/or co-curricular programs of either the assigned school or the proposed transfer school. A pupil's "best interest" shall also not be determined upon alleged more convenient access to the proposed transfer school due to proximity to the geographical boundaries of a district or because of circumstances of more convenient access to transportation or after-school day care. Rather, a pupil's "best interest" shall involve circumstances which are unique or nearly so to the pupil and to no or very few other pupils; and which adversely affect the education of the pupil at the assigned school; and which are ameliorated at the proposed school.

The Superintendent's determination of whether to accept the transfer of a student from another school district shall involve an independent review of the pupil's best interest and shall further include an evaluation of whether Chesterfield School has adequate space and programs for the needs of the pupil. The acceptance may be revoked at any time if the student fails to abide by the reasonable rules of the school, or if it is determined that the transfer has failed to accomplish its intended purpose.

All reassignments or transfers under this procedure shall be reevaluated by the Superintendent on an annual basis prior to the start of the school year, and the pupil's parent or guardian shall be alerted that all reassignments or transfers are made on an annual basis.

All decisions made by the Superintendent under this procedure are final and binding and may not be appealed unless a parent or guardian asserts that a school assignment results in a manifest educational hardship under R.S.A. 193:3(I). The school board shall evaluate applications for relief for a manifest educational hardship. A parent or guardian shall demonstrate the detrimental or negative effect on the pupil if the pupil continues to attend the school to which s/he is assigned. If the school board determines that manifest educational hardship has been demonstrated, the school board shall issue a waiver of the school assignment and the student shall be reassigned to a reasonably available public school in the district or in another district. If a parent or guardian is aggrieved by the decision of the school board, the parent or guardian may appeal to the State Board of Education in accordance with the provisions of Ed. 200.