Policy IHBIB Primary/Pre-Primary Education (Child Development)

Issued 7/03 Draft /19

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for the district’s delivery of primary and pre-primary education.

Four-Year-Old program

The district will provide for the education of four-year-old children with predicted significant readiness deficiencies. South Carolina law provides for at least a half-day early childhood development program for four-year-old children.

A child who has attained the age of four on or before September 1 and meets the at-risk criteria is eligible for enrollment in the program. Parents/Legal guardians must submit applications to the elementary school for which their children are zoned to attend. The applications will be processed according to the guidelines set forth in administrative rule IHBIB-R. Submitting an application does not guarantee enrollment in the program. Selection priority is given to children who demonstrate an academic or developmental need.

The South Carolina Education Improvement Act of 1984 and the Early Childhood Development and Academic Assistance Act of 1993 (Act 135) require school districts to establish and provide for the education of four-year-old children with predicted significant readiness deficiencies. South Carolina law provides for at least a half-day early childhood development program for these four-year-old children.

Kindergarten

The district will provide kindergarten programs for all students within the district. A child who has attained the age of five on or before September 1 of the applicable school year or has substantially initiated a public school kindergarten program in another state that has a different attendance age requirement from South Carolina is eligible for enrollment in the program.

Special needs students Students with Disabilities

The district will provide special education and related services to all pre-school children with disabilities whose parents/legal guardians request these
services. Children who have reached the age of three and have delayed developmental progress that requires a special education program are eligible for enrollment in a program in accordance with their Individual Education Program (IEP) plans. Included in this category are four-year-old children with deficits in cognitive, social, emotional, perceptual, visual, hearing, motor and speech-language abilities.

The district will attempt to contact all early intervention agencies and the parents/legal guardians of those children who will reach age three or four on or before September 1 and who are at risk for later school failure. The district will also publicize the availability of the pre-school programs for three-year-olds and four-year-olds (and three-year-olds, if appropriate) to the public to recruit children whose participation is difficult to obtain.

The administration will develop regulations for the primary and pre-primary programs.

The district will provide special programs in accordance with the provisions of the law and state regulations and policies.

**Screening criteria**

The district will apply the following criteria when screening children for enrollment in the program:

- a screening instrument approved by the state department of education for use in determining each child's developmental level
- an entrance age requirement which specifies a child must be three (if the program serves three-year-olds) or four years of age on or before September 1 of the applicable school year
- legal birth certificate
- South Carolina certificate of immunization
- a comprehensive health appraisal (before or within 120 days of enrollment) as developed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and approved by the state board of education

The district will include ongoing staff development as a part of the long-range comprehensive plan and annual updates required to carry out the purposes of Act 135.

The administration will develop appropriate regulations to assure that the district conducts the program under state board of education guidelines.

Adopted 11/28/72; Revised 8/31/82, 7/1/03, ^

Legal References:
A. S. C. Code, 1976, as amended:
   1. Section 59-5-65(8) - School districts may contract with appropriate groups and agencies to provide part or all of the programs.
   4. Section 59-67-425 - Transportation of children attending kindergarten or child development programs.

B. State Board of Education Regulations:
   1. R43-243.1 - Criteria for entry into programs of special education for students with disabilities.

Legal references:

United States Code:


S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:

Section 59-19-340 - Allows local boards of trustees to provide programs for children reaching age four on or before September 1 and programs for three- and four-year-olds.

Section 59-67-425 - Three-, four- or five-year-old children attending public school-sponsored programs of child development can ride state-owned buses to the extent that funds are made available by the General Assembly or as long as transportation services may be provided at no additional cost to the state.

Section 59-5-65(8) - School districts may contract with appropriate groups and agencies to provide part or all of the programs.


Section 59-36-10 - Preschool Programs for Children with Disabilities.

State Board of Education Regulations:

R-43-264.1 - Half-day child development programs for four-year-olds.