

STUDENTS

Student Enrollment, Exceptional Circumstances Meriting Waiver of Age Requirements for Pupils

The administration shall ensure admission, enrollment and assignment of all qualifying children referenced in this policy. The administration shall place children enrolled pursuant to this policy in either a half-time or full-time kindergarten program as an integral part of the elementary school program. The administration shall also ensure provision of a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment possible, pursuant to terms of each student's individualized education program, for all children enrolled under this policy who are qualified for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

The administration shall include children enrolled pursuant to this policy in the district's calculation of average number belonging (ANB) as reported to OPI.

The Board of Trustees declares the following to be qualifying "exceptional circumstances" within the meaning of that term as used in 20-5-101(3), that merit waiving the age provisions of 20-5-101(1), MCA for qualifying children under 6 years of age:

1. A child at least 3 years of age with a disability qualifying the child for services under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.
2. A child who is 4 years of age or older on or before September 10 of the school year in which enrollment is to occur who:
 - a. Meets the income eligibility guidelines for free or reduced price meals under the National School Lunch Program;
 - b. Is Limited English Proficient within the meaning of Title III of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act;
 - c. Is Gifted and Talented within the meaning of that term as used in 20-7-901, MCA;
 - d. Is an enrolled member of a federally recognized American Indian Tribe;
 - e. Is homeless as defined in 42 U.S. Code § 11302, or, as determined by the administration, exhibits other characteristics or lives in circumstances that are uncommon, unusual, atypical, rare or otherwise distinguished from ordinary or typical which place the child at risk of failing to achieve at adequate levels.

Legal Reference:

§ 20-5-101, MCA	Admittance of child to school
§ 20-6-501, MCA	Definition of various schools
§ 20-7-117, MCA	Kindergarten and preschool programs
§ 20-9-309, MCA	Basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools defined
Individual with Disabilities Act	Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973
National School Lunch Act (Public Law 396, 79 th congress, chapter 281, 2 nd session)	Title III, ESEA (English language Acquisition, language Enhancement, and Academic Achievement Act)
MicKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 1987 (Pub. L. 100-77, July 22, 1987, 101 Stat. 482, U.S.C. § 11301 et seq.	

Policy History:

Adopted 8-11-2015