

# POLICY

## Queen Anne's County Public Schools

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| POLICY TITLE:<br>Attendance/Age of School Attendance                |  |
| ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE:<br>June 1, 2011<br>Revision: May 05, 2012  |  |
| POLICY/PROCEDURE MANUAL SUMMARY CATEGORY:<br>Students<br>Amendment: |  |

### I. Purpose

To establish policy governing student attendance within Queen Anne's County Public Schools including deferred admission to kindergarten and early admission to prekindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade.

### II. Policy Statement

Queen Anne's County is responsible for ensuring that students are enrolled in and regularly attend school in accordance with state law.

#### 1. Attendance

- a. Who Shall Attend: Each child who resides in the State and is 5 years old or older and under 16 shall attend a public school regularly during the entire school year unless the child is otherwise receiving regular, thorough instruction during the school year in the studies usually taught in public schools to children of the same age or the child is exempted under 01-02 of this regulation.
- b. A child who resides in this State shall attend a public or non-public kindergarten program regularly during the school year before entering 1<sup>st</sup> grade unless the child is enrolled in an alternative program as specified in Regulation .02-2C of this chapter or is receiving home instruction as provided in COMAR 13A.10.01.

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- c. Students shall be considered in attendance at school when participating in school-sponsored activities during the school day and when the participation is approved by the local superintendent of schools or the school principal or their designees. Students shall be considered in attendance in an alternative program setting when participating in activities during the day sponsored by the alternative program and when that participation is approved by the director a licensed child care center, registered family day care home, or Head Start 5-year-old program.
- d. Daily Attendance Record. A record of daily attendance of each student shall be kept in accordance with regulations of the State Board of Education and the Maryland Student Records System, Manual of Instruction, which is incorporated by reference in COMAR 13A.08.02.02.

### **2. Age of School Attendance**

- a. Pre-Kindergarten. Children admitted to the pre-kindergarten program in the public school shall be 4 years old on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in which they apply for entrance. Children may be admitted earlier than the State's age requirement if parents apply for early admission and the children are accepted according to the administrative procedures for evaluating such requests.
- b. Kindergarten. Children admitted to the kindergarten program in the public schools shall be at least 5 years old on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in which they apply for entrance. Children may be admitted earlier than the State's age requirement if parents apply for early admission and the children are accepted according to the administrative procedures for evaluating such requests. Parents may request deferred admission to kindergarten if they believe it is in the best interest of their child by filing a written request with the Superintendent of Schools.

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- c. First Grade. Children admitted to the first grade in the public schools shall be at least 6 years old on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in which they apply for entrance. Children may be admitted earlier than the State's age requirement if parents apply for early admission and the children are accepted according to the administrative procedures for evaluating such requests.

d.

### III. Definitions

None

### IV. Implementation

The Superintendent will develop and publish administrative procedures for the implementation of this policy.

### V. References

COMAR  
§13A.08.01.01  
§13A.08.01.02  
§13A.06.02