

Attendance**AGE OF ENTRANCE, AGES OF ATTENDANCE, PROOF OF AGE, AND DISCLOSURES**

Regular attendance at school is required between the ages of six and eighteen and is permitted at the age of five for kindergarten and the age of six for first grade.

All children who have attained the age of six years by February 1 of any school year or who are older than six years of age, but who have not attained the age of eighteen years, are required to attend school regularly during the entire school term.

Additionally, a child who attains the age of 16 during the school year is not subject to compulsory school attendance beyond the date upon which he or she attains that age if the child files a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment with the district school board. The declaration must acknowledge that terminating school enrollment is likely to reduce the student's earning potential and must be signed by the child. The school district must notify the child's parent or legal guardian of the child's declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment.

I. Kindergarten Enrollment

Any child who will have attained the age of five years on or before September 1 of the school year, shall be eligible to enroll in kindergarten at any time during the year.

A transferring kindergarten student is eligible to be enrolled in a Miami-Dade County Public School if the entrance-age requirements have been met outside Florida and the child had been regularly enrolled there.

II. First Grade Enrollment

Beginning with the 1985-86 school year, any child who has attained the age of 6 years on or before September 1 of the school year and who has satisfactorily completed the requirements for kindergarten in a public school in accordance with the pupil progression plan of the district or in a nonpublic school from which the district school board accepts transfer of academic credit, or who otherwise meets the criteria for admission or transfer in a manner similar to that applicable to other grades, shall be admitted or promoted to the first grade at any time during the school year.

A transferring first grade student is eligible to be enrolled in a Miami Dade County public school if the entrance-age requirements have been

met outside Florida and the child had been regularly enrolled there.

III. Proof of Age for Admission

A. Initial Entrance

Every child initially entering a Miami-Dade County public school in kindergarten through the twelfth grade must prove age by an authentic document issued by a governmental agency. The school should attempt to verify age at the time of spring registration.

Florida Statutes, Section 232.03, specify the evidence which may be used for the above purpose, and also indicate that if the first prescribed evidence is not available, the next evidence obtainable in the order below shall be accepted:

1. A duly attested transcript of the child's birth record filed according to law with a public officer charged with the duty of recording births;
2. A duly attested transcript of a certificate of baptism showing the date of birth and place of baptism of the child, accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the parent;
3. An insurance policy on the child's life which has been in force for at least two years;
4. A bona fide contemporary Bible record of the child's birth accompanied by an affidavit sworn to by the parent;
5. A passport or certificate of arrival in the United States showing the age of the child;
6. A transcript of record of age shown in the child's school record of at least four years prior to application, stating date of birth; or
7. If none of these evidences can be produced, an affidavit of age sworn to by the parent, accompanied by a certificate of age signed by a public health officer or by a public school physician, or, if neither of these shall be available in the county, by a licensed practicing physician designated by the School Board, which certificate shall state that the health officer or physician has examined the child and believes that the age as stated in the affidavit is substantially correct.

B. Acceptable Proof

If acceptable proof is not presented when the child first seeks admission, the principal should enroll the student temporarily and give the parent a reasonable length of time to secure proper proof (approximately two to four weeks).

If sufficient proof is not secured in a reasonable length of time, the appropriate region director shall be consulted prior to excluding the student from school. Principals must not let these students remain in school for several months before verifying their ages.

C. Birth Certificate

The Division of Attendance Services will supply appropriate forms for making application for a birth certificate. Some parents may need help from school personnel in completing these applications. Providing such assistance will enable the school to be sure that the proper procedure has been followed.

Original copies of birth certificates usually have an embossed seal imprinted on them. All photostatic copies not bearing this seal should be carefully evaluated to determine authenticity.

If questions arise which the school cannot answer regarding birth certificates, the principal should call the appropriate region director.

IV. Student Disclosures

Each student at the time of initial registration for school shall note previous school expulsions, arrests resulting in a charge, and juvenile justice actions the student has had.

Specific Authority: 230.22(2) F.S.

Law Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: 232.01; 232.0205; 232.03; 232.04 F.S.

History: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

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