

***Martha's Vineyard Public Schools***  
***Age of Entry Policy***  
*of the*  
**Edgartown School District**  
**Oak Bluffs School District**  
**Tisbury School District**  
**Up-Island Regional School District**

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THE ABOVE NAMED DISTRICTS recognize that a uniform entrance age in a graded school structure can help to minimize the whole developmental variability found in any typical graded classroom group.

It is the policy of the above Districts that a child **must** be five (5) years old on or before September 1 of the school year of entrance for Kindergarten placement and **must** be six (6) years old on or before September 1 of the school year of entrance for grade 1 placement.

It is the policy of the above Districts to place children who enter from other public schools in the grade placement of the sending school. Kindergarten and Grade 1 transfer students who do not meet the minimum age requirement must have been enrolled in the public school grade for a minimum of eight (8) weeks prior to transferring. Appeals may be presented to and considered by the Superintendent.

**RELEVANT STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY**

Early entrance is not encouraged or recommended and is not usually in the child's best interest. Although in extremely rare cases, it may be educationally and developmentally appropriate for a particular child, this determination is extremely difficult to make. Any recommendation for early entrance shall be based on a comprehensive review of the child's development and characteristics including: self-confidence and self-esteem, independence, interest, use of time, stage of play development, stage of cognitive development, emotional maturity, peer interactions, social development, and other indicators of overall advanced development. Advanced academic skills alone are not reliable indicators of developmental maturity or appropriate justification for early entry. The Superintendent will make the final decision on any exceptions to the policy.