

**ENTRANCE INTO PRESCHOOL, KINDERGARTEN, AND FIRST GRADE**

The Diocese of Harrisburg fosters the establishment of new preschool programs and the continuation of successful existing programs. The diocese further encourages participation of all children in a kindergarten program prior to entering first grade.

The diocese recommends that the local Catholic school establish its entry age for students to coincide with the public school district from which the greatest number of its students come. Students transferring from another school should ordinarily be accepted if they have successfully completed the previous level.

In order to plan for a successful entry for each child into his/her schooling, the diocese favors the use of developmental scales for children entering kindergarten. These assessments are not to be used to deny entry to children, but to provide information that the school may use to insure successful participation by each child.

In Pennsylvania, kindergarten is not a required grade. In some circumstances, families may be advised to delay a child's entrance into first grade. However, a child should not be denied entrance unless he/she does not meet the local age requirement or a definite learning disability has been identified that would impair the child's successful experience in the first grade classroom.

Policy

Adopted: June 14, 1996

NCD/Bishop of Harrisburg