



Casa Esperanza Montessori

a dual-language charter school and preschool community

School Policy

Policy Number: 3.5

Section: Admission and Attendance

Title: Early Admission to Kindergarten

Policy Verbiage:

To determine the eligibility of a four-year-old child to enter kindergarten pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 115C-364(d), the Head of School shall determine if the child meets the following qualifications:

- (1) Student Aptitude. The child shall be precocious in academic and social development and shall score at the 98th percentile on a standard individual test of intelligence such as the Stanford-Binet, The Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence, the Kaufman Anderson, or any other comparable test administered by a licensed psychologist.
- (2) Achievement. The child shall be functioning from two to three years beyond the child's peers. The child shall score at the 98th percentile on reading or mathematics on a standard test of achievement such as the Metropolitan Readiness Test, the Stanford Early School Achievement Test, The Mini Battery of Achievement, the Woodcock-Johnson, the Test of Early Mathematics Ability (TEMA), the Test of Early Reading Ability (TERA), or any other comparable test administered by a licensed psychologist, a member of the psychologist's professional staff, or a professional educator who is trained in the use of the instrument and who has no conflict of interest in the outcome of the assessment.
- (3) Performance. The child shall be able to perform tasks well above age peers as evidenced by behaviors in the following areas: independent reading, problem solving skills, advanced vocabulary, and some writing fluency. The parent shall submit a sample of the child's work that shows outstanding examples of ability in any area including, but not limited to, art, mathematics, writing, dramatic play, creative productions, science, or social interactions. The Head of School will also require a teacher to complete an informal reading assessment of the child.
- (4) Observable Student Behavior/Student Interest. The child shall demonstrate social and developmental maturity sufficient to participate in a Montessori environment for a full day. The child shall be capable of following verbal instructions and functioning independently. The parent shall provide two recommendation letters with specific documentation of physical and

social maturity from preschool teachers, child care workers, pediatricians, or others who have direct knowledge of the child and knowledge of Montessori Education. Useful documentation checklists include the California Preschool Competency Scale, the Harrison Scale, or any other comparable scale of early social development.

(5) Motivation/Student Interest. The Head of School or his/her designee shall conduct an informal interview with the child and a more structured interview with the parent to determine if the child displays a thirst for knowledge and seeks new and challenging learning situations.

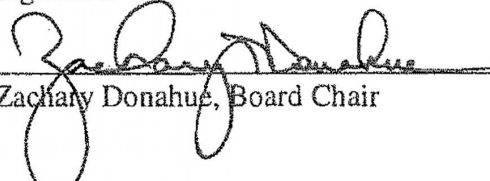
(b) The parent shall present the information required by this Rule to the Head of School within 60 calendar days of being offered placement at Casa Esperanza Montessori Charter School (CEMCS). All testing shall be administered after the April 16th that follows the child's fourth birthday. The Head of School shall decide whether to grant the parent's request for enrollment within three weeks after receiving this information. The Head of School will enroll the child for ninety days in order to observe whether the child is able to adjust to the school setting. If the Head of School determines that the child has not adjusted to the school setting, the Head of School shall deny the request for enrollment.

(c) CEMCS may require parents to supply information in addition to that required by this Policy. CEMCS may also require specific tests or other measures to provide information relating to the factors listed in Paragraph (a) of this Policy.

☒ Include in Parent Information Handbook
☐ Include in Employee Handbook

☒ Include on School Website

Signature:



Zachary Donahue, Board Chair

April 19, 2012

Date Adopted