**Title: 5021 REQUIREMENTS FOR KINDERGARTEN**

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| § 11.14.  Of the  Pennsylvania  Code  24 P.S. § 13-1303a  28 Pa. Code §§ 23.81-87  24 P.S. § 13-1303a  28 Pa. Code §§ 23.81-87 | **5021 Requirements for Kindergarten**  **5021.1 Admission to Kindergarten When Provided**  The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown encourages participation of all children in a kindergarten program prior to entering first grade.  Children shall be enrolled in kindergarten classes during a specified period in the spring of the school term preceding the commencement of classes. The local school is to establish its entry level age for students to coincide as nearly as possible with the public school district which provides transportation to the greatest number of its students  When registering a kindergarten student, the parent(s)/guardian(s) shall present proof of age and (for a Catholic child) a baptismal certificate. Christian student shall present a baptismal certificate and note the denomination when possible. Incoming students shall be given a school health examination form, which must be completed by the parent(s)/guardian(s) and the student’s physician. This form should be returned to the school prior to the beginning of the school year. **THE CHILD’S** **SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER IS NOT REQUIRED.**  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.  **5021.2 Kindergarten Waiver**  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.  **5021.3 Immunizations**  The Pennsylvania Department of Health promulgates immunization regulations that require parents or guardians of students enrolled in grades K-12 to have their children immunized against various communicable diseases. The regulations apply to kindergarten, elementary, and secondary students enrolled in a public school, private school, or nonpublic school, and home education students.  It shall be the duty of the Principal/designee to ascertain that every student, prior to admission to school for the first time, including Pre-Kindergarten, has been immunized against such diseases as the Pennsylvania Secretary of Health may direct.  The Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown does not allow any exceptions, including religious or philosophical. |