



Elmhurst Community Unit School District 205 - Early Entrance to Kindergarten

With the understanding that students progress at different rates, District 205 is mindful of the integrity and developmental appropriateness of programs for children.

Many students can demonstrate academic ability based on the exposure provided by parents and daycare settings; however, few children demonstrate the aptitude, or thinking ability, needed to enter kindergarten early. When considering early entrance into Kindergarten, keep in mind it is a process designed to meet the academic and social needs of the child, not as a replacement for child care. Students accepted into Kindergarten early are placed in a class where peers could be up to two years older.

Early Entrance to Kindergarten

This procedure is used when parents request that their child be enrolled in Kindergarten at the start of the upcoming school year even though the child is not yet five years old on or before September 1.

Identification of Candidates

Children are located through parent referral, referrals from non-public preschool programs, District 205 school staff, or other professionals.

Agency to Process Requests

Parents must contact their home school's building principal to request information/consideration relative to Early Entrance to Kindergarten. In order to assist District 205 with appropriate staffing levels, we ask that parents contact the principal by April 1 to initiate the process. However, a final decision cannot be made until final records are obtained from the non-public preschool program and/or testing results are available.

Assessment

Once a child has been identified as a potential candidate, the building principal explains the assessment process to the parent. Criteria for early admission are clearly stated and adhered to. No exceptions are allowed.

Upon receipt of all the information requested and after a thorough review of the assessment results in collaboration with the school's psychologist and/or receiving Kindergarten teacher, the building principal consults with the parents prior to making a final decision. The Assistant Superintendent for Learning and Teaching or a designee may also be called in to provide consultation regarding the decision. The decision of the building principal is final.

Criteria for Early Admission to Kindergarten

1. The child's fifth birthday falls between September 2 and September 30.
2. Parent submits a letter stating the educational reason why their son/daughter should be admitted to kindergarten early.
3. If the child attended a preschool, the teacher confirms the child's readiness for Kindergarten. A letter from preschool on letterhead documenting dates of attendance, child's progress in social and emotional readiness, confidence, communication skills, and overall readiness for Kindergarten.
4. The child scores:
 1. 50th percentile or higher (District 205 norms) on Kindergarten Fall achievement measures.
 2. Scores well within or above the 5 year range on the social/emotional measure.
Social/emotional measures may include:
 - Scales of Independent Behavior (SIB-R)
 - Vineland Adaptive Behavior Scale

Admission for later birth dates requests for children who turn five between October 1 and December 31 will be made to the school principal, who will follow the steps for Double Promotion. The decision of the building principal is final.