

# ***Chatfield Public Schools***

## **Early Entrance to Kindergarten Policy**

### **1. Criteria for Early Entrance to Kindergarten**

- a. Children will be considered for Early Entrance to Kindergarten if their fifth birthday falls between September 2 and November 1.
- b. Children must demonstrate superior intellectual ability, defined as a minimum IQ of 125.
- c. Children must demonstrate pre-academic/academic skills above average when compared to the skills of the majority of entering kindergartners, based on informal assessments, formal assessment (Woodcock Johnson Test of Achievement scores of K.8 or higher) and observations:
  - i. Ability to recognize all letters of the alphabet with automaticity;
  - ii. Basic phonemic awareness;
  - iii. Basic understanding of letter-sound code (associate sounds with words or letters);
  - iv. Ability to write first name with clarity;
  - v. Ability to name and write the numerals 1-10 (reversals are acceptable);
  - vi. Fine motor development including the ability to copy a variety of line drawings, tracing within lines with reasonable accuracy;
  - vii. One-to-one number correspondence to 12;
  - viii. Basic numeration skills for simple addition and subtraction;
  - ix. Understands the math concepts of “above, under, in front, behind, beside, few, more, big, little, long and short.”
  - x. Sorts by color, shape and size.
  - xi. Follow 2-3 step directions.
  - xii. Communicate wants, needs and thoughts through words and age-appropriate sentence structures.
- d. Children must demonstrate socialization and behavioral skills more advanced than the majority of entering kindergartners, based upon results of a normative behavior rating scale – Behavior Assessment Scale for Children (BASC), parent report, and observations of the child during a kindergarten class. Critical behaviors include:
  - i. Ability to separate from parent;
  - ii. Ability to focus attention for 10-15 minutes during learning/listening tasks in a group setting;
  - iii. Willingness to participate, share and cooperate in groups;
  - iv. Relative ease in socializing with peers;
  - v. Ability to manage transitions and accept changes in routines;
  - vi. Ability to verbalize and interact easily with teacher and peers.

## **2. Procedures**

- a. Parents may access this information on the district web page, or in the Chatfield Elementary School office.
- b. Between February 15<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> parents may contact the elementary principal to request registration materials.
- c. After registration materials are returned, an appointment is made for an individual assessment at the school.
- d. The Process for Early entrance is explained in detail on the following page.

## **3. Decision Making**

- a. The results and recommendation for early entrance will be shared with parents and school principal through a written report.
- b. The principal will make the final decision.
- c. Children will enter kindergarten on a probationary admission or will not be admitted for Early Entrance but may enroll in kindergarten the following fall.
- d. School registration for early entrance to kindergarten will only be accepted after the full assessment has been completed and the child is found eligible.

## **4. Probationary Admission**

- a. At the end of the first quarter the school will notify the parent/guardian if the child is recommended to:
  - Continue in kindergarten; or
  - Withdraw for the remainder of the school year and return for Kindergarten the following fall.
- b. Probationary admission means that your child will be monitored to ensure that kindergarten is appropriate to his/her learning, social-emotional and developmental needs. If kindergarten is not an appropriate match for the needs of your child he or she may be removed from school and asked to enroll the following fall. Please have a back-up plan in the event that kindergarten is not appropriate for your child at this time. We highly recommend that the child attend a preschool program if kindergarten is not the best fit for your child.

If you are interested in more information regarding early entrance to Kindergarten please contact:

Craig Ihrke

Chatfield Elementary Principal

507-867-4521

[cihrke@chatfield.k12.mn.us](mailto:cihrke@chatfield.k12.mn.us)

## **The process of qualifying for the Early Entrance to Kindergarten consists of three steps:**

1. Appointment with school staff / Evaluation
2. Observation
3. Evaluation/Cognitive Assessment

After each step, children who have met the criteria established for that particular step will be authorized to continue in the Early Entrance to Kindergarten assessment process.

### **Appointment at the School (April/May)**

Parents will have a scheduled appointment with a school staff member to complete the Woodcock Johnson Tests of Achievement. If the child receives a score of K.8 or higher, an observation will be scheduled for the kindergarten experience.

### **Observation (May)**

The School will notify the parent/legal guardian with the date and time of their child's kindergarten observation. Administration, Early Childhood Staff and a Kindergarten Staff will observe the child. Rescheduling is usually not possible.

### **Observation Results (Late May/ Early June)**

The school will notify the parent/legal guardian via letter if the child:

- Is recommended to proceed to the Evaluation/Cognitive Assessment process; or
- Is not recommended for Early Entrance to Kindergarten.

If the child is recommended to proceed to the Evaluation/Cognitive Assessment process, the school will provide the parent/guardian with information on the next step.

### **Evaluation/Cognitive Assessment (June)**

For those children recommended to proceed to the Evaluation/Cognitive Assessment step, the school will provide the name of the person/organization who can administer a Cognitive Assessment for your child. The minimum IQ requirement is 125. (Evaluation must be completed by June 30).

### **Evaluation Results (by July 30)**

The Enrollment Center will notify the parent/legal guardian via letter if the child:

- May enter kindergarten early on a probationary admission; or
- Will not be admitted for Early Entrance but may enroll in kindergarten the following fall.

If the child is recommended for probationary admission, the school will provide the parent/guardian with the information needed to enroll the child in kindergarten.

# Chatfield Public Schools Early Entrance to Kindergarten Application

## 1. STUDENT

Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last

First

Middle

Preferred Name \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Gender  Male  Female

month day year

## 2. SIBLINGS

Name

Birthdate

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## 3. EARLY ENTRANCE PREPARATION

Please list your child's experience with groups of other children away from his/her parent(s)/guardian(s), such as nursery school, preschool, etc.:

Name of Facility / Provider

Phone Number

Dates of Attendance

_____	(____) _____	____/____/____ to ____/____/____
_____	(____) _____	____/____/____ to ____/____/____
_____	(____) _____	____/____/____ to ____/____/____
_____	(____) _____	____/____/____ to ____/____/____

How do you think it would benefit your child to start school a year early?

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In what ways does your child demonstrate above average intellectual and social readiness for school?

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How does your child feel about school?

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**4. EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING**

Early Childhood Developmental Screening must have been completed prior to applying for Early Entrance to Kindergarten.

Early Childhood Developmental Screening is required by the State of Minnesota for kindergarten admission and is a careful check of your child’s health, well-being, and development. The results of the screening will help identify needs that may require special attention before your child enters school.

You may have your child’s Early Childhood Developmental Screening completed by:

The ISD 227. Call (507) 867-4521, Monday-Friday, September through May to schedule an appointment. Screenings typically take place in November and February each school year.

Your family physician, if a standardized development test is used. Check with your doctor’s office to see if their screening meets the state’s requirement.

Location \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Screening \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

I have attached a copy of the results of my child’s Early Childhood Developmental Screening.

Initials of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. ASSESSMENT AND PROBATIONARY ADMISSION**

I understand that if my child does not meet the criteria for any of the two steps (Observation and Evaluation) of the Early Entrance to Kindergarten assessment, he/she will not be authorized to continue in the Early Entrance to Kindergarten process.

Initials of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that, due to the time and resources required for the Early Entrance to Kindergarten process, all decisions regarding my child’s eligibility are final.

Initials of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that entering kindergarten early as a four-year-old means probationary admission through the end of the first quarter. I will be notified by the school if the needs of my child would be better met by entering school as a kindergartner the following year.

Initials of Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

**6. PARENT/ GUARDIAN**

Parent(s) Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby give consent for the assessment of my child. The school district has my permission to contact any of the Early Entrance preparation facilities or providers listed. I certify the information given above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail, email or deliver the application by May 1st to:

Craig Ihrke, Chatfield Elementary Principal  
11555 Hillside Drive, Chatfield MN 55923

Phone: 507-867-4521

Email: cihrke@chatfield.k12.mn.us