



Elmhurst Community Unit School District 205 - Early Entrance to First Grade

This procedure is used when parents request that their child be enrolled in first grade after successful attendance in a non-public Kindergarten program and their child will turn six between September 2 and December 31 of that year.

Identification of Candidates

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

Agency to Process Requests

Parents should contact their home school's building principal to request information/consideration relative to early entrance to first grade. In order to assist the School and District with appropriate staffing levels, we ask that parents contact the principal by April 1 to initiate the early entrance process. However, a final decision cannot be made until a full Kindergarten year has been completed and final records are obtained from the non-public Kindergarten program.

Criteria for Early Admission to First Grade

Criteria for early admission are outlined here. No exceptions are made.

1. The child's sixth birthday falls between September 2 and December 31.
2. The child attended a non-public preschool and continued their education through Kindergarten.
3. The child was taught in Kindergarten by a state of Illinois certified teacher.
4. The child is assessed to be ready for a first grade curriculum through a thorough records and curriculum review, including literacy and numeracy skills that are commensurate with students completing Kindergarten.

Admission for later birth dates for children who turn six between January 1 and the end of the school year will be made to the school principal, and will follow the steps for Double Promotion.

Early Admission to First Grade - Directions for Parents

1. Upon receipt of this packet of information, complete the Authorization for Exchange of School Student Records form by inserting the name, address, phone number, and contact person for your child's current non-public Kindergarten program. Insert the date and sign the form. Return this authorization to the building principal.
2. Once the building principal receives the release form, s/he will contact your child's non-public Kindergarten provider and request that the following information be provided to Elmhurst School District 205 and your home school's building principal:
 - a. a final progress report/report card indicating successful completion of a Kindergarten curriculum and the recommendation that the child move on to first grade, and
 - b. a copy of your child's kindergarten teacher's Professional Educator License (PEL) printed from the state's Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS).
3. If you decide to withdraw from this process at any time, please contact your child's building principal.

Upon receipt of all the information requested and after a thorough records review, the building principal will consult 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.