

Information for Early Entrance to Kindergarten

Q: Who is eligible to enter kindergarten early?

State and Tacoma Public Schools guidelines require that students entering Kindergarten in the fall must have turned five years of age on or before August 31st. However, a child whose birthdate falls on or between September 1st and October 31st may enter kindergarten if he or she meets entrance-screening requirements. Families must also reside within the Tacoma School District to be eligible for testing.

Q: What kind of information is used to determine if my child is eligible for early entrance to kindergarten?

Your child's eligibility for early entrance to kindergarten will be based on readiness for kindergarten. The process involves an objective evaluation of your child's beginning academic skills, language development, physical coordination, and social maturity.

To assure that your child will be more likely to have a great first year of school, he/she will be expected to meet standards at least six months above his/her age in all areas assessed.

Children meeting the entry standards will be recommended for a four-week trial period in kindergarten beginning at the start for the 2020-21 school year. Determination of final placement into kindergarten is the decision of the teacher and school principal.

Q: What is the evaluation process for determining student eligibility for early entrance into kindergarten?

Step 1: Attend one of the REQUIRED Parent Information Meetings

The Parent Information Night meeting is on June 3rd at 2pm or 5:30 pm at the Willard Early Learning Center, 3201 S D St., Tacoma, WA 98418. The purpose of this meeting will be to inform parents of Tacoma Public Schools Early Entrance policies and procedures. Applications, proof of address and a testing fee of \$50.00 (cash or Check) must be turned in at this meeting to schedule testing appointment. We will jointly schedule testing appointments at the end of this meeting for all interested parents.

Step 2: Testing

This testing process lasts approximately one hour and takes place at the Willard Early Learning Center the week of June 15th – 18th, 2020.

The purpose of the testing is to determine whether your child demonstrates the skills necessary to be successful in a kindergarten classroom setting.

Families will receive a letter indicating the outcome of the screening. There are two possible outcomes of the testing:

- The student did not demonstrate the needed readiness skills and is not eligible for further testing, or;
- The student did demonstrate the require readiness skills and is eligible for early entrance into kindergarten.

The results are final. If your child is eligible for early entrance to kindergarten, you will receive a letter of success and TPS Enrollment Services will be notified for placement. If your child is not eligible for early entrance, we may have preschool options available for your child.

Step 3: Four-Week Trial Period

Students eligible for early entrance who enroll in a kindergarten program are assigned a four-week trial period beginning at the start of the 2020-21 school year. After four weeks, your child’s kindergarten teacher and the building principal will review your child’s performance in the classroom to determine whether your child should continue in kindergarten. Determination of final placement into kindergarten is the decision of the school principal and your child’s kindergarten teacher.

Q: What are the dates and times for this year’s individual testing?

There will be one week of testing, June 15 – 18th, 2020 from 9 am to 3 pm. An additional week will be scheduled if necessary. These are one-hour appointments. You will receive only **ONE** appointment time, so plan to be sure that your child will be able to take advantage of the scheduled testing appointment.

Missed appointments will not be rescheduled.

Q: If found eligible to enter kindergarten early, how do I enroll my child?

If your child is eligible for early entrance to kindergarten, the teacher will provide letter of success at the end of testing.

A copy of your child’s Early Entrance acceptance letter will be sent to the Tacoma School District Enrollment services office. They will contact you with enrollment information based on space availability.

Application Requirement	Applications are available online or at the required parent information meeting on June 3rd at either 2pm or 5:30 pm at the Willard Early Learning Center 3201 S D St., Tacoma, WA 98418
Individual Testing	June 15th – 18th, 2020 by Appointment only –scheduled at required parent meeting on June 3rd, 2020
Four-week Trial Period	First four weeks of 2020-21 school year

Early Entrance to kindergarten testing application
Turn in at the required parent meeting on June 3rd
at either 2:00 pm or 5:00 pm

Testing fee of \$50.00 of exact change or check collected with application

Student's Last Name	First Name	Middle	Date of Birth
Parent/Guardian Name (please print)			Gender
Home Address	City, State	Zip Code	Languages Spoken at Home
Phone Number(s)			Child's Primary Language
Email Address			Has your child attended pre-school? Name of pre-school:
Student Readiness for Kindergarten			
Students eligible for early entrance into Kindergarten are academically, physically, and socially ready to meet Kindergarten expectations. Please indicate your answers to the questions below.			
Academic Skills			
Does your child know the basic colors (red, blue, yellow, black, white)?	YES	NO	
Can your child recite the alphabet in English?	YES	NO	
How many letters can your child identify (e.g., point & say "This is b")	List:		
How many letters can your child write?	List:		
How high can your child count?	Counts to		
Does your child know basic shapes (e.g., circle, square and triangle)?	YES	NO	
Can your child write his or her name?	YES	NO	
Physical Maturity			



Willard Early Learning Center
3201 S D St
Tacoma, WA 98418
253.571.2610

Does your child run? Jump? Hop?	Circle all that apply: run jump hop	
Does your child use crayons or pencils?	YES	NO
Social Maturity		
Is your child able to separate from you, his/her parent/guardian	YES	NO
Does your child follow adult directions or instructions well?	YES	NO
When given a task to do, does your child work with the task until it is completed?	YES	NO

PERMISSION FOR ASSESSMENT

I grant permission for Tacoma School District staff members to test my child,

_____ to determine eligibility to enter kindergarten. Child's
Name

I understand that this testing may include tests of cognitive ability, gross/fine motor, visual motor, speech and language and social/emotional development. I understand that the results of this testing will be shared with me and made a part of my child's school record but will not be shared with other parties except with my written permission or in compliance with a judicial order.

By signing I agree that the results are final and there is no appeal process per Tacoma school district policy No. 3110 available on website.

Print Name: _____ Signed: _____

Date: _____ Relationship to child: _____

Documents received:



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Copy of Birth Certificate Proof of address –
attached or viewed _____ initials Testing fee – cash or check
_____ Testing date/time _____