

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 283

SECTION/FILE 503.1 DATE OF ADOPTION 10/25/82
AFFIRMED 5/26/87; 3/27/00; 2/13/06; 3/08/10

TITLE Early Kindergarten Admission

503.1. Early Kindergarten Admission

I. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

All children in Minnesota are required to begin attending school by the age of seven. Children are not required by statute to complete kindergarten before beginning first grade. The district recommends that children attend kindergarten before entering first grade.

II. PROCEDURE

- A. Children who are five years of age on or before September 1 of the school year may enroll in kindergarten. The district will begin the registration process in December of the prior school year. The registration process will define the school enrollment options and kindergarten programming options available to kindergarten families.
- B. Children who are five years of age on September 2 through October 31 of the calendar school year may enroll in kindergarten at their attendance area school only, if they meet the district's early admission to kindergarten assessment requirements outlined below. Early Admission is not available to Park Spanish Immersion students.
 1. Families seeking early admission into kindergarten must submit a completed application form, two letters of recommendation from non-relatives, and a non-refundable testing fee to the District Office to cover the cost of professional testing and observation between January 1 and May 1 prior to the year of admission.
 2. The assessment requirements will include an assessment of:
 - a. cognitive functioning and readiness skills for academics
 - b. social and emotional characteristics
 - c. motor skills

The assessment will be completed by the district gifted and talented services teacher.

3. The district will contact the family within one week of receiving payment to schedule an assessment appointment.
4. Children must be 6-12 months developmentally advanced and/or at the 95th percentile cognitively to be considered for early entrance. If the testing indicates that a child is developmentally and cognitively advanced, an observation will be done of the child in his/her preschool and/or childcare setting.
5. The school district will have an early admission kindergarten team review the assessment. The team shall include a kindergarten teacher, a building principal, a district gifted and talented teacher, and the special services director/designee.
6. The team shall decide if the child is approved for early admission. The decision of the team is final and will be placed in writing for the family.
7. The family will register for kindergarten at their school of attendance.