



Early Entrance to Kindergarten

1. Criteria for Early Entrance to Kindergarten (EEK)

- a. Children will be considered for EEK if their fifth birthday falls between September 2 and October 31.
- b. Children must demonstrate superior intellectual ability, defined as performance at or above the 90thile on a nationally normed, individually administered test of cognitive ability, +/- the standard error of measurement.
- c. Children must demonstrate pre-academic/academic skills above average when compared to the skills of the majority of entering kindergartners, based on informal assessment and observations during the simulated kindergarten in all of the areas listed below:
 - i. Knows all basic colors;
 - ii. Ability to write first name with clarity;
 - iii. Fine motor development including the ability to copy a variety of line drawings, tracing within lines with reasonable accuracy;
 - iv. Ability to recognize all letters of the alphabet with automaticity;
 - v. Basic phonemic awareness;
 - vi. Basic understanding of letter-sound code;
 - vii. Ability to write the numerals 1-10 (reversals are acceptable);
 - viii. One-to-one number correspondence to 12;
 - ix. Basic numeration skills for simple addition and subtraction;
 - x. Basic knowledge of quantity concepts.
- 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, parent report, and kindergarten teacher observations made during a simulated kindergarten experience. Students must perform at this high level in all critical areas:
 - i. Ability to separate easily from parent;
 - ii. Ability to focus attention for appropriate amount of time during learning tasks;
 - iii. Ability to complete tasks in reasonable amount of time;
 - iv. Ability to transition easily from task to task;
 - v. Willingness to participate, share and cooperate in groups;
 - vi. Relative ease in socializing with peers;
 - vii. Ability to verbalize easily with teacher and peers;
 - viii. Well-developed fine motor skills for drawing and cutting tasks

2. Procedures

- a. Parents receive information regarding the Early Entrance to Kindergarten process at Early Childhood Screening from district website on district contact person;
- b. Between January 1st and May 1st parents may contact any elementary school in the District, the Enrollment Office at Central Services, or the Early Childhood Special Education office to request registration materials. A \$125.00 fee is charged to cover the costs of the Early Entrance Evaluation (fee may be waived for students/families eligible for free or reduced lunch). Any applications returned after May 1st will be charged a \$25 late fee for a total evaluation fee of \$150;
- c. Parents may attend kindergarten "round-up" or similar activities at their home school during February with the understanding that their child may not qualify for early entrance to kindergarten in the fall;
- d. After registration materials are returned, a district school psychologist will contact the family to schedule the assessment in late May. Assessments, which take about one hour, are conducted approximately the third week of June at the Early Childhood Center;
- e. If a child meets all intellectual and pre-academic criteria, he/she is further evaluated in a simulated kindergarten experience scheduled in late June. The simulated kindergarten is taught by an experienced kindergarten teachers with the school psychologist and a second kindergarten teacher observing.

3. Decision Making

- a. The determination for eligibility for early entrance to kindergarten is made by a consensus decision of the assessment team. This determination is considered final. Results and the final determination will be shared with parents and the home school principal through a written assessment report;
- b. The kindergarten teachers on the assessment team will notify the receiving kindergarten teacher at the home school regarding any early entrants;
- c. If accepted for early entrance, students may then be enrolled for kindergarten at the district office enrollment department;

4. Follow-up

Annually, data will be gathered on all Early Entrants to Kindergarten to determine if the students are academically successful in their advanced placement. This data will help assess the effectiveness of the Early Entrance process.