

## **640 KINDERGARTEN EARLY ENTRANCE POLICY AND GUIDELINES**

### **I. PURPOSE**

A student must be five years of age on or before September 1 of any year to be eligible to enroll in kindergarten classes. The Little Falls Community School District #482 views this age requirement as developmentally appropriate for a child to function successfully in the kindergarten program.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The Little Falls Community School District is in compliance with the Minnesota Statutes 2002, 120A.20 subdivision I, which states that no person shall be admitted to any public school as a kindergarten pupil unless the pupil is at least five years of age on or before September 1 of the calendar year in which the school year for which the pupil seeks admission commences or as a 1st-grade student unless the pupil is at least six years of age on or before September 1 of the calendar year in which the school year for which the pupil seeks admission commences or has completed kindergarten; except that any school board may establish a process for admission of selected students at an earlier age. The early entrance process and criteria have been established for students who request admission at an earlier age.

#### **EARLY ENTRANCE**

The Little Falls Community School District #482 recognizes that early entrance to school is an important decision and should be limited to and reflective of the following process:

##### **A. Selection Criteria for Early Entrance into Elementary School**

To be eligible for early entrance to school the student must meet the criteria in the prioritized order listed below.

1. Birthday is prior to October 1 of the year student seeks early entrance.
2. Mental age is in the superior range (2 standard deviations) as demonstrated by ability assessments conducted by the school psychologist.
3. Competency in academic skills is demonstrated by the student on the school readiness assessments, which are conducted by school personnel (usually a kindergarten teacher).
- 4A. Demonstrated success in a preschool program validated by a letter of recommendation from preschool teacher/director

##### **OR**

- 4B. Social maturity is demonstrated by social maturity assessments conducted by school personnel (usually a kindergarten teacher),

##### **B. Application Procedure**

1. Secure application form at the elementary school of attendance. Complete and return by May 15.
2. Interview of parents and child by principal.
3. Assessments and Observations
  - a. Psychological
  - b. Social maturity
  - c. School readinessCosts incurred for assessment to be borne by parents. Costs include assessment materials; professional time for assessing, scoring, and reporting; substitute for teacher (if necessary). The cost of the assessment will be refunded if the child is admitted and successfully completes the probationary period.
4. Complete medical check-up at parent's expense. Immunizations must meet State of Minnesota requirements.
5. Post-assessment interview with parents and school personnel.
  - a. The decision for allowing early entrance will be made at a team staffing of school personnel (usually the principal and the kindergarten teacher) and the school psychologist.
  - b. If entered early, the child will be placed on a trial basis. The probationary period will consist of the first trimester. An evaluation using the "Early Entrance Probationary Checklist" will be made by the teacher at the end of the first reporting period with the option to withdraw the student from early entrance by the admittance committee.

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EARLY ENROLLMENT  
APPLICATION FORM**

1. Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

2. Child's Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

3. Parent information:

Names \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

4. I understand that in order for my child to be considered for early entrance it will be necessary to meet the following criteria:

Selection Criteria for Early Entrance to Elementary School

To be eligible for early entrance to school the student must meet the criteria **in** the prioritized order listed below.

I. Birthday is prior to October **of** the year student **is** seeking early entrance.

2. Mental age is in the superior range (2 standard deviations) as demonstrated by ability assessments conducted by the school psychologist.

3. Competency in academic skills is demonstrated by the student on the school readiness assessments, which are conducted by school personnel (usually a kindergarten teacher).

4A. Demonstrated success in a preschool program validated by a letter of recommendation from pre-school teacher/director

OR

4B. Social maturity is demonstrated by social maturity assessments conducted by school personnel (usually a kindergarten teacher).

I understand, further, that I am responsible for the estimated costs incurred for assessments according to the following schedule:

a. Psychological Assessment	\$200
b, Observation and Assessment of Child	
Social Maturity	\$120
School Readiness	\$120
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$440</b>

5. There will be a post-assessment interview with school personnel and the parents to review assessment and observation data. The decision to enroll a child early will be made by school personnel and the school psychologist.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

**EARLY ENROLLMENT  
INTERVIEW & ASSESSMENT SUMMARY FORM**

I. Interview

A. Basic reasons for requesting early enrollment:

- 1 .
- 2 .
- 3 .

B. Describe school and/or other formal preschool experience your child has had:

C. Do you understand the criteria and procedures for early enrollment?

D. What skills have your child exhibited that lead you to believe your child is ready for early enrollment?

II. Assessment Summary

A. Psychological Assessment

Name of Assessment \_\_\_\_\_

Score(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Assessment \_\_\_\_\_

Psychologist recommendation:

1. Does child meet eligibility criteria? Yes No

2. Should child be enrolled early? Yes No

3. Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Psychologist's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

B. Social Maturity (Early Entrance Checklist)

(Observation by the Kindergarten teacher will be arranged by the principal and caregiver.)

B1. Letter from Preschool (attached a copy of the letter) Social Maturity requirement is met by the letter from preschool    Yes    No

B2. Name of Assessment \_\_\_\_\_

Score(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Assessment \_\_\_\_\_

Tester's recommendation:

1. Does the child meet eligibility criteria? Yes No

2. Should child be enrolled early? Yes No

3. Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tester's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

C. School Readiness (Early Childhood Focus of Learning)

Name of Assessment \_\_\_\_\_

Score(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Assessment \_\_\_\_\_

Tester's recommendation:

1. Does child meet eligibility criteria? Yes No

2. Should child be enrolled early? Yes No

3. Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tester's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

D. Early Entrance Probationary Checklist

(End of first trimester) Yes No

EARLY ENTRANCE CHECKLIST  
(Social Maturity)

Physical Characteristics

- 1. Exhibits physical maturity
- 2. Demonstrates good muscle control
- 3. Displays adequate attention span
- 4. Demonstrates sufficient stamina for entire day
- 5. Performs good eye-hand coordination

Intellectual Characteristics

- 1. Finishes work on time
- 2. Follows directions
- 3. Demonstrates good listening skills
- 4. Performs above average with peers in areas of academic skills
- 5. Shows interest In kindergarten level activities

Social Characteristics

- 1. Enjoys group activities
- 2. Exhibits self-confidence
- 3. Assumes leadership role
- 4. Solves problems appropriately
- 5. Demonstrates good verbal expression; volunteers answer

Emotional Characteristics

- 1. Copes well with problems
- 2. Adjusts well to the group setting.
- 3. Accepts constructive criticism
- 4. Shows ability to adapt to change
- 5. Exhibits calm demeanor

Key:

Y = Yes, the student meets criteria

N = No, the student does not meet criteria

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Date .....

## EARLY ENTRANCE PROBATIONARY CHECKLIST

### Physical Characteristics

- 1. Good attendance
- 2. Good muscle control
- 3. Adequate attention span
- 4. Sufficient stamina for entire day
- 5. Good eye-hand coordination

### Intellectual Characteristics

- 1. Finishes work on time
- 2. Follows group directions
- 3. Good listening skills
- 4. Above average with peers in areas of academic skills

### Social Characteristics

- 1. Enjoys group activities
- 2. Exhibits self-confidence
- 3. Assumes leadership role
- 4. Solves problems appropriately
- 5. Good verbal expression; volunteers answers

### Emotional Characteristics

- 1. Copes well with problems
- 2. Adjusts well to group setting
- 3. Accepts constructive criticism
- 4. Ability to adapt to change
- 5. Exhibits calm

demeanor Key:

Y = Yes, the student meets criterion

N = No, the student does not meet criteria

Recommendation:

Continue Enrollment

Withdraw Enrollment

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_