

Early Entrance to Kindergarten
Frequently Asked Questions
Peninsula School District

1. Who is eligible to enter kindergarten early?

State and Peninsula School District guidelines require that students entering Kindergarten in the fall must be 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 the early entrance requirements.

2. 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 an evaluation of your child's readiness for kindergarten. To increase the likelihood that your child will have a successful first year a combination of school readiness factors will be used to determine eligibility. The early entrance process involves an objective evaluation of your child's cognitive, school readiness skills, behavioral observations, and early learning experiences. Children meeting the early entrance standards will be recommended for a 30 day trial period in kindergarten beginning at the start of the school year. Determination of final placement in kindergarten is the decision of the school team.

3. What is the evaluation process for determining student eligibility for early entrance into kindergarten?

Step 1: Individual Testing: The individual testing takes approximately 60-90 min. and takes place at a centralized location within the district.

Step 2: Outcomes of Individual Testing Families are notified of the testing results approximately 2 weeks from the testing date. There are two possible outcomes of the individual testing:

- The student did not demonstrate above average skills and is not recommended for early entrance into kindergarten, or;
- The student did demonstrate above average skills and is recommended for early entrance into kindergarten. Families of students found eligible for early entrance must complete the regular registration process through their neighborhood school to enroll the student into a kindergarten program for the following school year.

Step 3: Trial Period: Students who meet eligibility criteria will be placed in a K classroom for 30 days to evaluate the appropriateness of placement. At the end of the trial period, a school team will meet to review your child's performance in the classroom and determine final placement. The school team will communicate the final decision to the parent and/or guardian.

4. What are the dates and times for this year's testing? The Early Entrance to Kindergarten testing occurs in late June or early July.

5. How do I sign my child up for Early Entrance to Kindergarten?

- **Step 1:** If your child's **birth date** falls within the Early Entrance requirements, please request an application from the Peninsula School District Student Services department at 253-5301080. **Applications will be mailed out during the month of April.**
- **Step 2:** Complete the application packet, which includes the following forms:
 - Application form
 - Preschool Teacher questionnaire (if your child is currently enrolled in daycare or preschool) Reduced Testing Fee information
- **Step 3:** Mail the completed application packet with the additional materials between May 1st and June 30th or August 15th if your family has moved into the Peninsula School District during the summer.
 - A check or money order for \$150 is made payable to Peninsula School District and is nonrefundable. Note: Free and reduced lunch qualifications can be applied towards the registration fee. Qualification of free lunch will waive the fee; qualification for reduced lunch reduces the registration fee to \$50. The free and reduced application form is included in the packet.
 - A copy of your child's birth certificate or passport
 - Proof of residency (Provide one copy, choose from one of the following categories: copy of a utility bill, or lease agreement, or mortgage payment book coupon, or bank or credit card statement, or cell phone bill, or most recent W2 statement, or property tax statement, or auto/homeowners/rental insurance policy)
 - Mail or drop off all application materials to Peninsula School District Student Services Department at 14015 62nd Ave. NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332
 - Applications must be submitted between May 1st and June 30th. Applications for residents who move into the district during the summer will be accepted between August 1 and August 31st

6. How will I know you have received my application? How will I know when my child is scheduled for the testing?

After you submit the complete application packet, you will be contacted by the Peninsula School District in June to schedule your assessment appointment place and time.

7. When will I know the results of the testing?

Test results will be mailed to parents approximately two weeks after the evaluation. The results include a letter with the assessment team's recommendation as well as a summary sheet of your child's performance.

8. If found eligible to enter kindergarten early, how do I enroll my child?

Parents may submit enrollment forms to the neighborhood school. If your child is eligible for early entrance to kindergarten, information about the enrollment process will be provided with your child's testing results. If your child qualifies for early entrance to kindergarten, we will send a copy of the test results to the child's neighborhood school or if you applied for open enrollment to that particular school name written on the application form.

9. How can I prepare my child for the testing?

There is no studying for the tests. You can prepare your child by having him/her get a good night's sleep and a healthy meal before the testing appointment.

What if my child doesn't meet requirements on the individual testing administered by the EEK assessment team and I do not believe the scores represent my child's kindergarten readiness skills?

The Early Entrance to Kindergarten Assessment team has made every attempt to determine the important readiness characteristics to ensure student success. At this time appeals will not be accepted.