



Early Kindergarten Admission - Information for Parents

At Benjamin Franklin Charter School (BFCS), we believe that children are capable and ready to be challenged! Our goal is to provide a joyful, supportive, and academically stimulating environment where children can grow and flourish. From day one, BFCS creates a space where children feel safe, engaged, and ready to learn.

Early Admission to Kindergarten at BFCS

BFCS complies with all Arizona kindergarten enrollment laws. Testing for possible early admission to kindergarten and any subsequent enrollment actions are subject to availability based on openings and will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Early kindergarten assessments may not be offered each year depending on enrollment.

Arizona Legislation Governing Entrance into Kindergarten (*A.R.S. 15-821*)

For the current calendar year, children who are turning 5:	before September 1st	are eligible for admission into kindergarten.
	between September 1st and December 31st	may be eligible for admission to kindergarten if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • kindergarten seats are available; • it is determined to be in the best interest of the child through the BFCS Early Kindergarten Admission assessment; • the child will turn five before January 1.
	after December 31st	are not eligible for early entry admission into kindergarten.

Is Early Entrance to Kindergarten the Best Choice for Your Child?

Early entrance to kindergarten should be viewed as an opportunity to meet a child’s needs. The key to determining whether or not early entrance is recommended is to evaluate the child’s academic skills, social/emotional development, and fine/gross motor skills. Early entrance to kindergarten is designed for children who are both academically ready and developmentally mature compared to same-aged peers. The child’s academic and developmental aptitude should match the of-age students who will also be in the class.

Early Kindergarten Entrance Considerations

- Is my child capable of working in a classroom setting with children who are six months to a year older?
- What are the long-term impacts of my child being the youngest in a grade throughout elementary, middle, and high school?

- Do I understand the expectations for students in kindergarten at Benjamin Franklin Charter School?
- Is my child capable of understanding and completing advanced, accelerated, 1st grade material? Will my child be frustrated by the advanced placement?

The BFCS Advanced and Accelerated Program

BFCS is an advanced and accelerated program. In order to accomplish this, students will experience accelerated instructional pacing and complete 1st grade curriculum in the second half of their kindergarten year. Students work approximately one grade level ahead for the remaining elementary grade levels.

The BFCS Early Kindergarten Admission Process

1. Request Early Kindergarten Admission Information

To start the process of consideration for early admission into the kindergarten program, parents should reach out to the local campus front office.

2. Complete Early Kindergarten Admission Parent Checklist

If there is availability, parents will be required to complete the Early Kindergarten Admission Parent Checklist.

3. Submit Completed Paperwork

If, after completing the checklist, parents decide to continue to pursue early kindergarten admission, parents will return the completed checklist and a completed early kindergarten admission application as directed by the local campus representative.

4. Schedule an Assessment Session

Once all paperwork has been submitted, and if the campus has availability, an assessment session will be set up.

5. The BFCS Early Kindergarten Admission Assessment

Testing sessions will be conducted in a small-group format and may take place at various BFCS locations, depending on availability. On the day of testing, parents and children should arrive at the testing campus approximately 15 minutes prior to the testing time. Children will participate in small group testing by a committee of BFCS kindergarten teachers. The assessment will cover academic, social/emotional, and fine/gross motor skills. Parents should plan on approximately one hour for testing. Parents are not permitted in the testing classroom and must stay on site until the testing is completed.

6. Assessment Results

Parents will be notified via email of the results of the BFCS Early Kindergarten Admission Assessment within two weeks of the testing date. The placement decision is final, and there is no appeal process.

7. Enrollment into Kindergarten

Enrollment into the kindergarten program for a child with a passing score on the BFCS Early Kindergarten Admission Assessment cannot be guaranteed as priority for kindergarten placement is given to of-age students (5 years of age before September 1). A representative from the school will reach out to provide directions for registration and enrollment if a secure spot becomes available. Specific requests for half-day or full-day programs are subject to availability.

8. Provisional Enrollment Status

Children admitted into kindergarten after the BFCS Early Kindergarten Admission Assessment are enrolled on a provisional basis. During the first 30 days of school, if there is a question about whether kindergarten is the most appropriate learning environment for the child, an educational team may schedule a meeting to reconsider the early kindergarten entry placement.