

599 EARLY ENTRANCE INTO KINDERGARTEN POLICY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is provide information for parents who want their child to enroll in Kindergarten prior to the legal entrance age of five (5) years on or before September 1st.

II. PROCEDURES FOR SELECTION

Initiation of interest for early admission will be initiated by the child's parent. Early entrance will be considered if space is available in the kindergarten classes. This would be determined by May 31.

III. PRETESTING INTERVIEW

Knowledge of the school program is critical to making good decisions on early admissions. By knowing what type of program the school offers, it is possible to consider the prerequisite skills of the children for existing programs. An interview with the parents, the child, school principal and kindergarten teacher will determine whether further testing is warranted. This interview will allow the school professionals to gather information from the parents and will allow a chance for professionals to observe the child.

IV. CRITERIA USED TO SELECT CHILDREN

Early admission to kindergarten will be considered for those children who will be five years of age after September 1. Requests for early admission should be submitted prior to April 1st, of the preceding school year. No child whose birthday comes after October 1st will be considered for early admission. A birth certificate will be provided by the parents.

In order to gain early entrance to kindergarten, the child must possess the following special abilities that permit early admission.

Emotional and Social Maturity -

The emotional and social maturity of the child, as well as long term impact, will be considered. Assessment will be formal and informal.

Academic Skills -

Language development and reading readiness will be considered.

Appropriate Pupil Behaviors -

The following behaviors will be given consideration: 1) Ability to follow directions, 2) Superior attention span and stamina to attend a full day of school, 3) Interest in kindergarten-type activities, curiosity, 4) Fine and gross motor skills 5) Self-direction, self-help and independence, 6) Ability to learn, perform and interact in a group, 7) Peer relations and social skill ability, 8) Attitude toward school and learning.

Preschool Experiences –

The parents will be asked whether the child had any previous experience in a nursery school, Head Start, Sunday School program, Montessori school or day care.

Cognitive Ability - A superior ability to learn will be required on an individual intelligence evaluation completed by the school psychologist. The child must obtain a standard score on psychological of 125 or above.

METHOD USED TO DETERMINE EARLY ADMISSIONS:

After the individual evaluation is completed, the school principal, the school psychologist, and a kindergarten teacher will meet to discuss the results of the evaluation. Consideration will be given to all the criteria listed above.

POST-TESTING INTERVIEW

A post-testing interview will be held with the parents and school professionals to inform the parents of their child's performance within 30 school days from the initial parent interview. The decision for Early Entry will be shared at this time.

WHEN CHILD IS DENIED EARLY ADMISSION:

When early admission is denied a child, parents have the right to appeal the decision to the School Board.

FEE:

It is estimated that the total time involved for the evaluation and interviews will be six hours. Because parents will be requesting early admission, the cost to the district to administer tests and conduct interviews shall be the responsibility of the parents. The hourly rate will be in accordance with the negotiated rate between the Park Rapids Education Association and the District.