



Adopted: 4/21/14

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550R KINDERGARTEN EARLY ADMISSION

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of early admission is to identify children who have characteristics associated with advanced development in the areas of academic, behavioral, social, and intellectual functioning. The early admission evaluation process attempts to minimize risk associated with beginning school before a child is ready and to identify the children most likely to be successful.

Strong candidates for early admission display skills beyond their expected age level. While pre-academic and academic skills are important (i.e., letter awareness and/or reading), advanced development in multiple areas is critical. For example, it is important for children to interact with peers appropriately, handle parent/guardian separation, and behave appropriately in situations which produce frustration.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Minnesota Statute 120A.20 requires kindergarten students to be at least five years of age on or before September 1 unless a school board has established a policy for early entrance. This policy applies to parents/guardians who desire to enroll their child in kindergarten prior to the legal entrance age of five years on or before September 1.

The School District recognizes that children develop physically, emotionally and intellectually at their unique rates, resulting in varying levels of school readiness. A process for determining early entrance into kindergarten has been established by the Board of Education of Independent School District #883, Rockford Minnesota.

III. PROCEDURE

A. APPLICATION PROCESS

Kindergarten applicants must be five years of age and first grade applicants must be six years of age on or before October 31 of the year in which admission is requested.

If the above age requirements are met, children may be considered for early entrance to kindergarten/first grade according to the following procedures:

1. Contact the building principal in the year the parent or guardian wishes their child to enter kindergarten/grade one.



2. The building principal will meet with the parent or guardian to learn about the child, discuss goals, provide information regarding the implications of early admission, and explain the process and criteria for early admission.
3. The Parent(s) or guardian(s) may choose to complete and return an application form, accompanied by the non-refundable assessment fee to the Superintendent. These applications will be accepted from February 1 until May 1 the year preceding anticipated, annual enrollment.

The Superintendent shall select appropriate evaluators for the early admission assessment of students. All evaluators assessing the intellectual functioning and social competencies will be required to have a current school psychologist license. Evaluators assessing the academic readiness skills will hold a current Minnesota teaching license.

Early admission evaluations of students shall not be performed by any school district personnel during regular school hours.

As evaluation for early entrance is not a part of regular school services, the fee charged by Rockford Area Schools shall be paid by the parent or guardian. Rockford Area Schools will contract with an approved school psychologist and licensed teacher to perform the assessments. The amount shall be reviewed annually by the evaluators and Superintendent. Parents/guardians who are not able to pay the fee should contact the Superintendent to discuss possible options.

B. EVALUATION PROCESS

1. Parent/Guardian will attain the early admission application from the elementary school office.
2. Parent/Guardian return a completed application form, and evaluation fee, to the Office of the Superintendent.
3. After the May 1 deadline, the evaluators will then contact the parent or guardian in a timely fashion and schedule a time for the evaluation.
4. After completing the assessment, the early admission team, comprised of district administrators and the contracted evaluators, will convene to review the assessment results and make the early admission decision.

Data in the following areas will be considered:

- **Intellectual Functioning:** Superior general cognitive functioning as measured by a technically sound standardized test of intelligence. Children will need to score at or above the 95th percentile.
- **Academic Readiness:** Superior school readiness skills in the areas of letter identification, letter sounds, number recognition, copying letters and numbers, and attention span will be carefully measured.
- **Social Competencies:** Scoring above average in all areas of the Social Skills Improvement System (parent questionnaire) AND above average on the social development teacher questionnaire (provided to the child's preschool teacher).
- **Pre-School History:** Information regarding the child's performance in any preschool program.



- **Previous Testing (if any):** The results of any individual psycho-educational testing completed prior to the initiation of this process.

5. The building principal will contact the parent/guardian to inform them of the decision no later than July 30 of the year of requested early admission.

6. The Superintendent will send a written report to the parent/guardian. A copy of the report will also be sent to the building principal.

C. GRADE LEVEL PLACEMENT

The final decision about the grade level placement of a student is made by the early admission team. The team will review all written records that pertain to the student's previous school experiences and level of functioning.

Decisions of the early admission team are final and are made with the best interest of the child involved. If there are questions related to a placement decision, parents/guardians may contact the Superintendent.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120A.20 (Admission to Public School)
Minn. Stat. § 124D.02 (School Board Powers; Enrollment)

Cross References: Policy 513 Student Promotion, Retention and Program Design



EARLY ADMISSION QUESTIONNAIRE Rockford Area Schools

Child's Name _____ Birthdate _____

Parents' Names _____ Phone number _____

Address _____

Note: You are cautioned not to regard the items listed in the questionnaire as anything more than an aid to a more complete understanding of your child by us. It is not meant to be a listing of all the desirable characteristics and achievements of high ability children of pre-school age. It is also important that you be completely honest in assessing your child. We would not want to place your child inappropriately.

A. Please state the approximate age of your child when he/she could first do the following things. If he/she does not yet do a certain item put "still learning" or other comments on the line.

Age/Comment

1. Talk in clearly understood words and phrases _____

2. Walk by him/herself _____

3. Walk downstairs one foot per stair _____

4. Dress him/herself completely, including tying shoe laces _____

5. Able to put on all winter clothes _____

6. Cut his/her own food _____

7. Able to play appropriately with children of a similar age _____

8. Take his/her turn willingly _____

9. Show interest in picture books _____

10. Print simple words _____

11. Read _____

Did he/she learn by him/herself _____

If not, who taught him/her? _____

12. Tell time (within a quarter hour) _____

13. Show interest in calendar _____

14. Learn days of the week in order _____

15. Able to stay on task when working in a group of children _____

B. Physically:

16. His/Her weight is: below average _____ average _____ above average _____.

17. His/Her height is: below average _____ average _____ above average _____.



18. His/Her general physical condition is:

below average _____ average _____ above average _____.

C. Most of the time:

19. He/She plays with many children _____ few children _____ alone _____.

20. His/Her playmates are older _____ the same age _____ younger _____.

21. He/She is more of a leader _____ follower _____.

22. His/Her playmates are already in school _____.

D. What previous group experiences has your child had with students his/her own age? (Sunday school, pre-school, etc.)

E. How does your child handle frustration, anger, separation from parents, etc.? (Please explain)

F. Please write below reasons why you feel your child should start kindergarten early. You may want to include information on some of the following topics. Feel free to comment on any area not mentioned above.

Favorite play activities.

Interest in games and amusements in advance of his/her age.

Originality in play activity.

Competency in drawing, singing and other creative abilities.

Examples of unusual ability to give attention over an extended period of time.

Examples of keen observation and retention of facts.

Examples of vocabulary superior to the average child of same age.

Examples of sense of humor.



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Ability to follow directions without unnecessary delay or prompting.

Parent's/guardian's signature _____

Date _____