STAFFORD
MUNICIPAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

1633 Staffordshire Rd., Stafford, TX 77477
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www.staffordmsd.org

Dear Early STEM Academy Families,

The Stafford STEM Magnet Academy (SSMA) Admissions Department is pleased to invite current kindergarten students enrolled in the Stafford Early STEM Academy (ESA) to apply to Stafford STEM Magnet Academy as the next step in their educational journey. As an ESA student, your child has displayed interest in STEM, and we are delighted to welcome ESA families as they take the next step in the admissions process.

To support a seamless transition from ESA to SSMA, we have tailored the admissions process specifically for current ESA kindergarten students. While all students—whether currently enrolled in Stafford Municipal School District (SMSD) or attending school outside the district—must submit an application for consideration, ESA students will follow a designated process designed to simplify the admissions steps.

Please review the enclosed materials carefully and complete each required step by the deadlines. We are excited about the opportunity to welcome our ESA scholars into the SSMA admissions process and look forward to supporting your family throughout this next step in your child's educational journey.

Forever a Spartan!

Sincerely,

Dr. Lakenya Perry-Allen
Director of STEM
Stafford MSD STEM Department

FIRST GRADE APPLICANTS GUIDELINE

THIS GUIDELINE IS ONLY FOR CURRENT KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS ENROLLED AT EARLY STEM ACADEMY

Admissions Assessment Requirements

All first-grade applicants are required to complete a norm-referenced and criterion-referenced admissions assessment administered by Stafford MSD as part of the admissions process.

Current kindergarten students enrolled in the Early STEM Academy (ESA) at Stafford Early Childhood Center (SECC) who are applying for admission to first grade at Stafford STEM Magnet Academy (SSMA) should not register for the weekend assessment dates designated for non-ESA first-grade applicants. ESA students will complete the required admissions assessment at their campus, and their results will be reviewed as part of their admissions requirements.

The admissions assessments will continue to be administered during the regular school day by Stafford MSD staff as a campus requirement. As part of the SSMA admissions review process for ESA applicants, parents are to retrieve the student's assessment score reports from the SECC campus and upload to Blackbaud. Again, students enrolled as ESA students are not required to complete any additional weekend assessment for SSMA admissions consideration.

The required admissions assessment window to be considered for admissions to SSMA is January 27 - February 12. Please plan attendance accordingly.

The application, required assessment, teacher recommendations and overall student growth will be reviewed to determine the appropriate decision of placement to Stafford STEM Magnet Academy's First Grade.

Please Note the Following:

- The mentioned testing requirements are for current ESA students only.
- The mentioned test will be completed on campus. (No registration required)
- This report will be available directly from ECC by mid- February. Please download and upload to your application in Blackbaud.

FIRST GRADE APPLICANTS GUIDELINE cont'd

Stafford Early STEM Academy (ESA) and SSMA Admission

Enrollment in Stafford Early STEM Academy (ESA) does not guarantee admission or automatic transition to Stafford STEM Magnet Academy.

Stafford ESA is designed to provide students with an early STEM-focused educational foundation and to prepare students for the academic rigor, expectations, and instructional environment of Stafford STEM Magnet Academy. Students enrolled in ESA who wish to attend SSMA must complete the SSMA admissions application process and meet all applicable admissions requirements.

Application Requirements and Continued Enrollment

All applicants, including current Stafford MSD students and Stafford ESA students, are required to complete the SSMA admissions application and all requirements.

Once accepted and enrolled into SSMA, students will remain enrolled without needing to reapply, provided they are continuously enrolled and meet program requirements. Students enrolled at SSMA are expected to maintain a minimum average of 75 in all core academic areas and adhere to the school's behavioral contract. Students who are voluntarily withdrawn from SSMA or are removed from the program must reapply for admission the following year to be considered for a future seat. Reapplication does not guarantee admission or placement.

Important Admission Notice

Admissions decisions are based on the established SSMA admissions criteria and the information available to the Admissions Department at the time of review. Stafford STEM Magnet Academy reserves the right to establish and communicate applicable testing dates, admissions procedures, deadlines, and requirements.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process begins with the completion of the Student Inquiry Form at www.stem.staffordmsd.org/admissions. Once your inquiry has been processed, you will receive instructions to create a Blackbaud account, where you will complete and submit the SSMA application in its entirety.

Blackbaud serves as the central platform for the SSMA admissions process, including application submission and the uploading of required supporting documents. Please refer to the admissions timeline and testing information included in this welcome package for additional requirements and important deadlines.

Checklist to be Submitted for a Considerable Application (managed in Blackbaud):

- Complete an Inquiry Online to Set Up Blackbaud (Application Management Account)
- Complete and Submit Application Form via Blackbaud
- No Application Fee for Current ESA Students
- Request Two Teacher Recommendations via Blackbaud
- Upload Assessment Score Report via Blackbaud
- Upload Final Report Card via Blackbaud

MISREPRESENTATION NOTICE: Any student who gains an unfair advantage in the admission process by any misrepresentation of information is prohibited from enrolling.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

The provided application timeline has been modified for current ESA kindergarten students applying for first-grade admission to SSMA.

Please note that this timeline differs from the general SSMA admissions timeline for other first-grade applicants and applies exclusively to current ESA students. The dates listed below reflect Phase 1 application deadlines. We encourage families to keep this timeline readily available and refer to it throughout the admissions process to ensure all required steps are completed by the designated deadlines.

Admissions Action	Location	Phase 1 Deadlines
Return Interest Form to ESA Teacher & Submit Inquiry Form Online	stem.staffordmsd.org/admissions	November 19, 2026
Complete Application (Application Form, Recommendations, Report Card)	app.blackbaud.com/signin	February 28, 2027
Take the Required Admissions Assessment on Campus	Stafford Early Childhood Center	January 27 - February 12, 2027
Receive and Upload Assessment Score Report to Blackbaud	app.blackbaud.com/signin	February 19, 2027
Decisions Communicated	via EMAIL	March 1, 2027
Attend Summer Bridge (IF OFFERED ACCEPTANCE)	Stafford Early Childhood Center	June 2027 (TBA)

STAFFORD STEM MAGNET ACADEMY INTEREST FORM

For Early STEM Academy (ESA) • First Grade Applicant Interest Form

I, _____, parent/guardian of _____, am / am not (circle one) interested in having my student considered for acceptance to Stafford STEM Magnet Academy (SSMA).

I understand that this form is only an expression of interest and does not constitute an application or guarantee admission to Stafford STEM Magnet Academy (SSMA), nor does it obligate me to continue with Stafford MSD. I understand that I must still complete the SSMA application process and submit all required materials as outlined in the SSMA welcome package for my student to be considered for admission.

☐	**I AM interested in attending Stafford STEM Magnet Academy.** I intend to continue with the SSMA admissions process and complete the required application steps.
☐	**I AM NOT interested in attending Stafford STEM Magnet Academy.** If I continue with Stafford Municipal School District, my student will attend Stafford Elementary School.
☐	**I AM NOT interested in attending Stafford STEM Magnet Academy.** I will attend a school outside of Stafford MSD.
☐	**I AM NOT interested in attending Stafford STEM Magnet Academy.** I prefer not to disclose my student's future educational plans at this time.

PLEASE NOTE: This is an Interest Form, not an application. An SSMA application is still required for consideration for admission.

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TO YOUR CHILD'S ESA TEACHER BY NOVEMBER 19, 2026.

Parent/Guardian Name (Printed): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Email: _____

Student Name: _____

Stafford ESA Teacher Name: _____

Date: _____

Stafford STEM Magnet Academy Admissions Department
Please contact via email with any questions: STEMmagnet@staffordmsd.org