

## **Early Entry into Kindergarten and First Grade**

### **Kindergarten**

In order to qualify for early entry, the following criteria must be met:

1. The child must be five years old as of midnight on November 15 to apply for the evaluation procedure and consideration for early kindergarten enrollment.
2. Application for early entry must be made no later than May 15 so scheduling, administration, and interpretation of the evaluation results can be completed prior to June 30.
3. In the principal's and school psychologist's professional judgment, the child must not be placed under undue stress or in a possible failure situation based upon testing and observation of the child during the evaluation process.
4. The child must be physically mature, as judged by the professional staff, to compete adequately with children from one and a half to thirteen and a half months older; the same applies to the child's ability to cope with age delay in the areas of emotional and social readiness.
5. The child must achieve a score on all standardized measures which indicates functioning at the five and a half year old level or above. On the intellectual functioning measure, the child must achieve a score at or above the 97th percentile. The school psychologist or other qualified professional staff will present all of the testing data, as well as the observation data, to the principal with a recommendation. The principal will make the final decision on early kindergarten entrance based upon the available information.

A child who is granted early entry into kindergarten shall have his/her progress monitored for the first six to nine weeks. Continuation or discontinuation in the kindergarten program shall depend upon the child's performance and adjustment during this period of time. The decision relative to continuation or discontinuation is the responsibility of the principal. The parent will be required to sign a form stating that they have been informed of this regulation and that they agree to it.

Parents will be assessed a non-refundable fee, payable in advance, for all costs associated with the evaluation for early entry into kindergarten. The Superintendent will establish the applicable rate prior to May 1 each year.

Parents should be advised that this evaluation is a service and not a legal requirement of the District. They should also be advised, before paying a fee, that their child must pass a battery of tests with scores in the 97th percentile in the all areas and be considered Talented and Gifted in the five year-old range.

## First Grade

If a request for early admission to the first grade is received by the district, the following guidelines will be used:

1. A child attaining age six on or before September 1 qualifies for first grade. Students who are not age six may be considered for early entry;
2. The Request for Early First-Grade Entrance form must be filled out by a parent. The completion of these forms and receipt of formal evaluation results will activate the early entry committee. Members of that committee are: first-grade teachers, the speech and language therapist, building principals and the director of special services;
3. The parents will be made aware that it is their responsibility to secure testing by a qualified agency approved by the director of special services.

Three areas that must be tested include:

- a. Cognitive (intelligence);
- b. Affective (social/emotional); and
- c. Physical.

Test scores should be in the top quartile for entering first grade.

4. All information must be received by the director of special services on or before August 1;
5. The early entry committee will review the test information and the parent interview forms. If a student is to be considered for early entrance, the student will also be required to participate in a one-day screening/observation conducted by the district by the end of the third week of August;
6. The screening committee will make recommendations to the superintendent, and parents will be notified by the end of the fourth week in August;
7. A written appeal can be made by the parents to the superintendent or designee who may affirm, reverse or modify the early entry committee's decision. The superintendent or designee's decision is final.

**REQUEST FOR EARLY ENTRANCE**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Child \_\_\_\_\_

I request that my child be reviewed for early admission to the first grade.

I will have \_\_\_\_\_ evaluated at my expense in the following areas:

1. Cognitive (intelligence);
2. Affective (social/emotional);
3. Physical.

I understand the test scores must equal or surpass the norms for six-year, five-month age level in all areas of assessment by August 15. I will receive written information from the district concerning my request within three weeks of providing them with the test scores.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**La Grande School District  
La Grande, Oregon 97850  
Kindergarten Early Entry Request Form**

We would like to enroll our student in kindergarten in the La Grande School District even though he/she will not be five years old by September 1 of the coming school year. We understand that the process we must follow includes:

1. Submission of a student enrollment form and early entry request form.
2. A meeting with a team from the resident school to discuss the implication of early entry.
3. An evaluation of school readiness conducted by a qualified professional and paid for by the family that will include:
  - a. Intellectual Functioning;
  - b. Emotional/Social Functioning;
  - c. Adaptive Behavior.
4. The screening instruments used in the evaluation will be selected by the school district.
5. A second meeting with the team from the resident school to review the results of the evaluation and make a decision regarding school readiness.

In addition we understand that the final decisions rest with the principal of the resident school.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Resident School: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**School Use Only**

_____ Kindergarten Early Entry Testing request submitted	Date _____
_____ Student Enrollment Form Complete	Date _____
_____ First Team Meeting to Discuss Early Entry	Date _____
_____ Testing Fee Received and sent to district office	Date _____
_____ Copy of Enrollment and Early Entry Forms sent to district office	Date _____
_____ Testing scheduled	Date _____
_____ Testing conducted	Date _____
_____ Second Team meeting to review results	Date _____
_____ Team decision <b>Yes</b> _____ <b>No</b> _____	

Principal Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_