

Early Entrance into Kindergarten**

The current Oregon Law states that a child entering kindergarten must be five years of age on or before September 1. However, the current law does not prevent a school Board from allowing a child to enter school even though the child has not attained the minimum age, if the child's cognitive, social, and physical development would best be met in the school program (ORS 339.115).

Objective: The following procedure is intended to provide a means through which qualified children who do not meet the district entrance-age policy may be admitted into school.

Parents may request early entrance testing if their child will be five years of age on or before September 30th by submitting a written request to the Director of Curriculum and Instruction by June 30th of the school year.

The Director of Curriculum and Instruction will meet with the parents and child to discuss the district's early entrance procedures and options for the child, including early entrance to kindergarten and first grade acceleration. Parents will receive an application, permission to test form, and a packet containing current research on early entrance.

If parents decide to request testing, they will submit the application and permission form to the Director of Curriculum and Instruction by June 30 of the school year. An appointment for the testing will be made during the month of August.

A check, from the parents, for \$175 application fee, payable to the examiner, will be given to the consultant before the testing begins.

In the event that a child with a disability applies for early entrance, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction and the examiner will meet to determine appropriate screening tests and entrance standards prior to assessment.

Exceptions to testing deadlines and procedures will be made to parents who, for whatever reason, missed the deadlines, if their child meets the established criteria, on a case by case basis.

The following battery of assessments will be administered:

1. Interview with parents.
2. The Woodcock Johnson III Tests of Cognitive Abilities and Tests of Achievement.
3. Developmental history of the child.

The child must achieve the following scores on the battery of tests administered:

1. A score at or above the 97th percentile for his or her age group on the General Intellectual Ability Standard Battery on the Woodcock Johnson III Tests of Cognitive Abilities.
2. A score at or above the 97th percentile for his or her age group on the Total Achievement cluster of the Woodcock Johnson III Tests of Achievement, which includes Broad Reading, Broad Math, and Broad Written Language.

The examiner will complete a one page summary report after the screening is completed. A copy of the report will be given to the Director of Curriculum and Instruction and the parents.

After receiving the testing results, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction will determine whether or not the child has met the criteria to be admitted to kindergarten. The Director of Curriculum and Instruction will contact the parents to convey the decision concerning admission to school. If the parent has further questions regarding the test results, they may contact the examiner.