

Early Entry into Kindergarten

In general, children are expected to be five years of age on or before September 1 before enrolling in kindergarten. However, exceptions may be permitted for children whose birthdates fall between September 2 and October 1 if the data clearly indicate that a child will achieve in the top 90 percentile of the kindergarten class in all areas of development: social, emotional, physical and intellectual.

The parents must notify the district of their intent to seek early enrollment prior to the first student contact day for that school year. After notifying the director of elementary education of their intent, it is the responsibility of the parent to secure a private evaluation by a fully qualified individual of their choice. All costs incurred for early entry testing will be the parent's responsibility.

Intellectual, academic, and socio-emotional data is used in making the determination. A team that shall include a district administrator and school psychologist and may include a kindergarten teacher will review the data. Additional team members may be included if it appears to be appropriate and the team may consider information provided by persons and/or agencies outside the district.

As the team begins to study the collected intellectual, academic and socio-emotional data, these factors will be considered:

1. Students will be expected to score at or above the 90 percentile on at least one of the following:
 - a. Intellectual ability;
 - b. Academic ability.
2. Students will demonstrate the social/emotional maturity expected of five to six year old children.

All recommendations for early entry will be reviewed by the director of elementary. If the director's decision is unsatisfactory to the parents, they may appeal to the superintendent or designee for a final decision.

The accompanying flow chart, Figure 1, traces the procedures for parents who want to consider early entry into kindergarten for their children.

FIGURE 1

EARLY ENTRY INTO KINDERGARTEN

