

5055.2 Early-Enrollment in Kindergarten

Minimum Age:

A child shall be eligible for admission into kindergarten at the beginning of the school year if the child is five years of age or will be five years of age on or before July 31 of the calendar year in which the school year for which the child is seeking admission begins. The School Board may admit a child who will reach the age of five years on or after August 1 and on or before October 15 of such school year if the parent or guardian requests such entrance and provides an affidavit stating that (i) the child attended kindergarten in another jurisdiction in the current school year; (ii) the family anticipates a relocation to another jurisdiction that would allow admission within the current year; or (iii) the child has demonstrated through a recognized assessment procedure approved by the School Board that the child is capable of carrying the work of kindergarten.

Early Admission to Kindergarten:

The following assessment procedure for determining if a child is capable of carrying the work of kindergarten is approved and shall be made available to interested persons:

Early kindergarten enrollment exceptions may be made for younger children who are intellectually advanced. At a minimum, eligibility for the admission shall be based upon an analysis of the child's: (1) social and emotional development, (2) language and literacy, (3) pre-academic skills/ and (4) fine and gross motor skills.

The kindergarten early entrance assessment procedures are designed to identify and place in kindergarten those children who:

- a. Will turn 5 years of age between August 1 and October 15;
- b. Are deemed by parents or guardians as being intellectually advanced and likely to benefit from advanced grade placement; and
- c. Are selected on the basis of testing by professionals trained and certified to administer the assessments.

In the discretion of the Superintendent or designee, the School District's professional staff will administer the assessments.

The decision regarding early entrance to kindergarten requires careful consideration of all factors that affect kindergarten success with final determination to be made based on the recommendation of the District Evaluation Team, to be composed of such individuals as the Superintendent or designee determined appropriate. The academic, social,

and emotional readiness, as well as the student's physical development and well-being, must be weighed with institutional factors also considered. Sound decision making in the area of early entrance to kindergarten is dependent upon reliable information regarding a student's readiness and a thoughtful balancing of the myriad of factors implicated by the decision. Parents will be notified in writing of the results of the Early Kindergarten Entrance assessment and the determination of the District Evaluation Team in a timely fashion; not to exceed three weeks after the assessments are completed. **There is no provision in the policy for reevaluation, retest, or parental appeal to the district decision.**

Families who seek early admission of their child into kindergarten must obtain an *Early Entrance to Kindergarten Packet* from the School District Administrative Office.

Parents must fill out the Early Entrance Application Form and request Kindergarten Entrance Assessment.

- If a child has attended Prekindergarten the parents will:
 - Submit a copy of the Child's Assessment from State/Federal Recognized Prekindergarten Program – Teaching Strategies **Gold** Individual Student Report

- If the child attended a private Prekindergarten or has not attended Prekindergarten the parents will:
 - Submit a copy of the Child's Assessment Teaching Strategies **Gold** Individual Student Report **OR**
 - **Submit an** Ages and Stages SE Questionnaire Completed by a Non Parental person
The person providing this Ages and Stages SE should know the child well enough that they can speak with some expertise about the child's attributes and abilities. Suggestions for this reference letter are a Prekindergarten teacher, a Sunday school teacher, a child-care provider, or a physician.

The district will complete the following steps in the process:

- Gather information from the parents
- Conduct the Ages and Stages SE Interview with the parent
- Administer Dial IV
- Administer Early Screening Inventory – K
- Review all information as a team to determine if the child qualifies for Early Kindergarten admission
- Notify the parents of team decision

The assessment request and additional documents required must be completed and returned to the District no later than April 1 of the spring before fall enrollment to allow timely assessment to be completed.

Decisions regarding early kindergarten entrance must include consideration of the above and shall not be made based on race, color, gender, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, age, disability, or sexual orientation of the child or the child's parents or guardians. Institutional factors, such as capacity, may also be considered.

Adopted On: **December 17, 2018**

Revised on: **May 11, 2022**