

## **630 EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish criteria and procedures for early entrance to kindergarten. Minnesota law requires that students be five years of age by September 1 of the year they enter kindergarten. The law also allows districts to establish policies that allow early admission to kindergarten for students born after September 1.

### **II. Four-year-old students with birthdays between September 2 and October 31.**

#### **A. Application and Assessment**

1. Families wishing to enroll a four-year old with a birthday between September 2 and October 31 must complete the application for early kindergarten enrollment and submit it to the office a minimum of two weeks prior to the intended start date.
2. The school psychologist, kindergarten teacher, or other qualified professional will administer sufficient assessments to measure student abilities on the criteria established by this policy.
3. The school may charge a fee for the assessment to cover the costs of testing instruments, personnel and contractors as necessary. This fee is not to exceed \$125 and may be reduced for families qualifying for free & reduced lunch.
4. At least two professionals shall be involved in the assessment process.
5. Final determination will be made by the two or more assessors and the school director.
6. Decisions may be appealed to the school board.

#### **Criteria**

1. Children must demonstrate superior intellectual ability, defined as performance at or above the 90%ile on a nationally normed, individually administered test of cognitive ability, +/- the standard error of measurement.
2. Children must demonstrate pre-academic/academic skills above average when compared to the skills of the majority of entering kindergartners, based on informal assessment and observations during the simulated kindergarten in all of the areas listed below:
  - a. Knows all basic colors;
  - b. Ability to write first name with clarity;
  - c. Fine motor development including the ability to copy a variety of line drawings, tracing within lines with reasonable accuracy;
  - d. Ability to recognize all letters of the alphabet with automaticity;
  - e. Basic phonemic awareness;
  - f. Basic understanding of letter-sound code;

- g. Ability to write the numerals 1-10 (reversals are acceptable);
  - h. One-to-one number correspondence to 12;
  - i. Basic numeration skills for simple addition and subtraction;
  - j. Basic knowledge of quantity concepts.
3. Children must demonstrate socialization and behavioral skills more advanced than the majority of entering kindergartners, based upon results of a normative behavior rating scale, parent report, and kindergarten teacher observations made during a simulated kindergarten experience. Students must perform at this high level in all critical areas:
- a. Ability to separate easily from parent;
  - b. Ability to focus attention for appropriate amount of time during learning tasks;
  - c. Ability to complete typical tasks in reasonable amount of time;
  - d. Ability to transition easily from task to task;
  - e. Willingness to participate, share and cooperate in groups;
  - f. Relative ease in socializing with peers;
  - g. Ability to verbalize easily with teacher and peers;
  - h. Well-developed fine motor skills for drawing and cutting tasks

References:

Stillwater Early Entrance to Kindergarten criteria  
Minnetonka Early Enrollment to Kindergarten general information  
Spring Lake Park Early and Accelerated Entrance to Kindergarten  
MS 120A.20, MS 121A.17, MS 121A.15