

Students

Administrative Procedure – Early Entrance to Kindergarten

Woodland School District 50 has established procedures to allow for parents to request early entrance into kindergarten for their child whose fifth birthday falls after September 1st and by December 31st. This is in alignment with School Code 105 ILCS 5/10-20.12.

The decision to allow for early entrance into kindergarten is very important. The criteria for consideration for early entrance includes two assessments; a kindergarten readiness assessment which is a combination of academic and social emotional readiness and an intelligence test as well as a personal interview with the child. This data along with parent feedback will help determine if this will be the best path for the child. The early entrance review team will work collaboratively with the parents. Parent input and the background information about their child is valued and will be considered making a determination about placement.

Those requesting early entrance into kindergarten must demonstrate a need for early education, as determined by their readiness in developmental areas. Students must demonstrate capabilities that warrant early admission. Decisions regarding early entrance must include but are not limited to the consideration of academic and emotional readiness regardless of race, color, gender, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, age, disability, or sexual orientation of children and or their families.

Steps to Request Early Entrance to Kindergarten

1. The child must live within the Woodland School District 50 boundaries and turn five years old after September 1 and by December 31 of that school year.
2. Parents must submit the following paperwork by July 1 prior to the school year start date to initiate the process.
 - Early Admission into Kindergarten Request and Consent Form
 - Parent Interview Form
 - Preschool Questionnaire (If the child has attended preschool)
3. Parents submit a certified copy of the child's birth certificate by July 1.
4. A non-refundable fee of \$250.00 is due at the time of submission of the Early Entrance Request Form. This fee covers the assessment services provided as a part of considering early entrance to kindergarten.

Eligibility Process

1. The child will be scheduled for two assessment dates within 10 days of completing paperwork and submission to the school principal. Two days are used to ensure that the length of testing is developmentally appropriate and not frustrating for the child.
2. During the first appointment, the child will participate in a kindergarten readiness assessment that includes an academic portion, a student interview, and social emotional rating.
3. The second appointment, the child will participate in an intelligence assessment administered by a district's school psychologist.
4. If another language is spoken in the home, the Pre-IPT (IDEA Oral Language Proficiency Test) should be administered instead of the W-APT (WIDA-ACCESS Placement Test) since the child will not yet be 5 years of age. This would be scheduled on a follow-up date if the child qualifies for early entrance.

5. The process from start to finish will not exceed thirty calendar days from the date when the request was submitted to the school principal.
6. Parents will be invited to participate in a team conference following the screening and testing. This is a very valuable part of the process as we need parent input and perspective as we summarize the results from the assessments. Members of the early entrance team and the principal will provide information regarding the child's performance during the screening, review the test results, and give parents a written summary of the screening.
7. The principal will share the final decision with the family at the conclusion of the process. Students that have met the entrance criteria will be admitted for the upcoming school year. For students that have not met the early entrance criteria, the families have the right to appeal the principal's decision with the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning.
8. If families participate in an appeal process, all data will be reviewed and based on the assessments, final review by the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, and parent conference, a decision will be made. Once the appeal process has occurred, all decisions are final.
9. The success of a students granted early entrance to kindergarten will be closely observed by the school team. The students will be tracked and data will be collected on their initial adjustment to kindergarten during the first 30 days of school. The principal will meet with the parents following the first 30 days of kindergarten to share the child's progress and acclimation to school. At the conference the child's current performance level will be shared as well as an overview of how the child is responding to classroom expectations and daily routines. If there are concerns, the team will review the child's specific needs and put supports in place to be successful.

Assessment Guidelines

- The child should score within the superior range (91st percentile or higher) of intelligence as measured by an individual test of cognitive ability administered by certified District 50 staff.
- The child should demonstrate above-average social-emotional development as determined by the interview with the child and assessment observations.
- The child should score within the superior range (91st percentile or higher) of academic tasks across reading, writing, and mathematics.

Dual Language Program Considerations

Early admission to kindergarten applicants that are interested in enrolling in the Dual Language program should abide by all district-wide procedures and deadlines in order to be considered. This applies to both lottery participants and siblings of current Dual Language program students.