



Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our district policy regarding admission to first grade follows:

Admission to First Grade: A child entering first grade must be 6 years of age on or before September 1 of that school term. Based upon an assessment of the child's readiness, a child will be allowed to attend first grade if he or she attended a non-public preschool, continued his or her education at that school through kindergarten, was taught in kindergarten by an appropriately certified teacher, and will be 6 years old on or before December 31. (IPSD Board Policy 7:50).

Consistent with *Board Policy 6:135: Accelerated Placement Program*, the District may grant early entrance to first grade for those students who demonstrate compelling evidence that they are both intellectually and socially advanced. Early entrance to first grade is considered a form of whole grade acceleration.

Although a child may exhibit high ability, please be aware that they may not be ready for first grade. Other important factors to consider are social maturity, personal development and motor development. The decision for a child to enter school early can have a profound effect on his or her academic and social performance for the remainder of the child's school career. It is a decision that needs to be taken very seriously. Parents requesting early entrance should be aware that the criteria for early entry are rigorous.

The decision to grant early entrance will be made after careful examination of relevant evidence that is provided by the parents and gathered through a district assessment process. The decision by District 204 regarding any application for early entrance into first grade will be final.

Part I: Application:

To be eligible for consideration for early entrance to first grade, the child must:

Turn six years old by December 31 of the school year for which they are seeking entrance

Parents/guardians wishing to apply for early entrance for their child must:

- Complete and submit all documents required for *Kindergarten* registration for the upcoming school year by June 30.
- Contact the building principal of their attendance area school. Parents/guardians should check the [School Boundaries Map](#) and [District Subdivision List](#) to confirm the attendance area school

The following must be submitted to the building principal by May 1:

- Request for [Early Entrance to First Grade](#) form
- A signed [Release of Information Form](#) to allow IPSD 204 to communicate with the child's current school, if applicable

All documents must be received before the student can be considered for early entrance.

Part II: Initial Academic Screening

Once residency is confirmed and all forms have been accepted, the child will be scheduled for a screening.

- As a component of screening, the parents/guardians will receive the SSIS (Social Skills Improvement System) SEL Parent Form via email.

There are two possible pathways for early entrance to first grade.

Pathway #1:

A child has attended a non-public preschool, continued his/her education at that school through kindergarten, and the child's kindergarten teacher held an appropriate teaching license.

- Parents must provide from the school where their child attended kindergarten:
 - A letter stating that your child has successfully completed kindergarten, demonstrated good attendance, and is ready to enter first grade
 - A progress report reviewing your child's progress in the following areas: language arts, mathematics, social emotional development, and fine motor development
- IPSD 204 staff may conduct screenings to determine the child's academic skills in math and reading, social emotional skills, and visual-motor skills.

Based on these documents and assessments, IPSD 204 will determine whether placement in first grade is appropriate.

Pathway #2:

A child has NOT attended kindergarten.

- During the second week of May, the child will be screened on their academic skills in reading and math using the iReady assessment. The assessment will be administered at the child's home school by a licensed District 204 staff member who is familiar with iReady. Administering reading and math on separate days is recommended.
- The child must score at or above the 85th percentile based on spring kindergarten norms in **both** reading and math.
- For children who do not score at or above the 85th percentile in **both** reading and math, the screening process ends at this step.
- Parents will be called, and a letter will be mailed home regarding the results and if there is a need to continue to the next part of the process.

Part III: Visual Motor and Social Emotional Screenings:

If the child meets the criteria on the academic screeners, the process continues.

- During the third week of May, a District 204 staff member will administer an assessment of social emotional development.
- During the third week of May, a District 204 staff member will administer an assessment of visual-motor skills.

Part IV: Final Placement:

Based on the completed evaluation, and any additional data requested of the parents, District 204 will determine the appropriate grade placement.

- If the district determines the child does not meet early entrance into first grade requirements, the decision is final and the child will not be eligible to be re-evaluated during the school year. Parents will be notified in writing and the child's assessment results will be included in the notification. The student will be enrolled in kindergarten.
- Children who are accepted for early entrance will be monitored for the first 30 days of school.
 - School staff will assess the child's initial adjustment to first grade and a meeting with the child's parents/guardians may be held to discuss the appropriateness and continuation of the placement.
 - If through the monitoring process it is determined that a child's initial adjustment is not appropriate, the district will place the student in kindergarten for the remainder of the school year.

To begin this process, please contact the principal of your child's elementary school.

Sincerely,



Laura Rosenblum
Assistant Superintendent, Elementary
Indian Prairie School District 204