



Dear Parent/Guardian:

Our district policy regarding admission to kindergarten follows:

*Admission to Kindergarten: The Board of Education, in compliance with the requirements of the State of Illinois, will maintain kindergarten for the instruction of all children who are residents of the District and who have reached the age of five (5) years on or before September 1 of the year of school enrollment. Through the Acceleration Act (PA 1 00-0421), some students may be appropriate for early entrance to kindergarten (IPSD Board Policy 6:135).*

Consistent with *Board Policy 6:135: Accelerated Placement Program*, the District may grant early entrance to Kindergarten for those students who demonstrate compelling evidence that they are both intellectually and socially advanced. Early entrance to Kindergarten 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 Kindergarten. 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 Kindergarten will be final.

#### **Part I: Application:**

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

Turn five 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:

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 Kindergarten](#) form
- A copy of the child's birth certificate
- Proof of Residency (see [Residency and the Residency Verification Process](#))

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 a social/emotional learning checklist via email.
- During the second week of May, the child will be screened on their academic skills in reading and math using a district assessment.

- The child must score at or above the 90th percentile based on fall kindergarten norms in **both** reading and math.
- For children who do not score at or above the 90th 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 assessment, 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 Kindergarten 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.
- 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 Kindergarten 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 withdraw the child from Kindergarten and the child can re-enroll when the child meets the state's enrollment age requirement for the appropriate grade level.

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