



Please Read Carefully Before Applying

Frequently Asked Questions about Early Entrance to Kindergarten

Q: Who is eligible to enter kindergarten early?

State and Seattle Public School guidelines require that students entering Kindergarten in the fall must have turned five years of age on or before August 31st. However, a child whose birth date falls on or between September 1st and October 31st may enter kindergarten if he or she meets rigorous entrance-screening requirements.

Q: How should I decide whether to apply for early entrance to kindergarten?

Families with students whose birthdays fall between September 1 and October 31 have a difficult decision to make. They must decide whether their child is sufficiently advanced to enter Kindergarten early, or wait until the next school year after the child has turned 5 years old. Simply put, the early-entrance child is always going to be one of the youngest students in their classroom through graduation.

Q: What are some of the specific considerations parents should take into account?

“Readiness” can be broken down into several different categories. If the student is going to attempt to succeed as one of the youngest in the class, parents should recognize that the student should not only be **academically** advanced for his/her age, but also **socially, emotionally,** and **physically** advanced for his/her age. If even one of these factors is not at a **significantly** advanced level, the potential risk of frustration, embarrassment, and sense of failure is substantially increased. This is true in both the short term (during the kindergarten year), and in the long term (during the remainder of the primary and secondary years).

Since the development of self-esteem is an important goal for all students, setting them up to be successful should be of foremost concern. Research findings point out that, on a national level, the youngest students in any classroom perform at lower levels in almost all indices compared to their classmates. Similarly, being the least physically mature student in the class year after year should be a significant consideration as well. A prudent course of action would include weighing all of these considerations before taking the step to apply for EEK.

Q: What kind of information is used to determine if my child is eligible for early entrance to kindergarten?

Eligibility for early entrance to kindergarten will be based on a student’s **readiness** for kindergarten. The process involves an objective evaluation of your child’s beginning academic skills, language development, physical coordination, and social maturity.

To assure that your child will be more likely to have a great first year of school, he/she will be expected to meet standards at least six months above his/her age in all areas assessed.

Children meeting the entry standards will be recommended for a **four-week trial period** in kindergarten, beginning at the start of the 2017-2018 school year. Determination of continuation in kindergarten is at the discretion of the school principal.

Q: What is the evaluation process for determining student eligibility for early entrance into kindergarten?

Step 1: Readiness Levels

This screening takes approximately one hour and takes place at an elementary school in May.

The purpose of the process is to determine whether a child demonstrates the skills necessary to be successful in a kindergarten classroom setting. Highly qualified kindergarten teachers observe how each child interacts in a classroom environment and completes a basic check of each child’s readiness skills.

Step 2: School-based Observation

After the classroom skills assessment, students will be observed in the school setting to gather further social, emotional, and interpersonal development levels.



Step 3: Academic Screening

The Cognitive Abilities Screening goes into more depth concerning a child's kindergarten academic readiness skills. This screening is administered onsite as a group assessment and takes about an hour to complete. Experienced Advanced Learning examiners administer this screening. We do not accept any outside testing in lieu of our evaluation process.

Step 4: Outcomes of Evaluation

Families are notified of the results of the Early Entrance to Kindergarten testing by both mail and email after the results have been reviewed by the Multidisciplinary Selection Committee (MSC.) The MSC will identify the most highly qualified applicants.

The notification will have one of the following possible outcomes:

- The student **did not** demonstrate the needed readiness skills and **is not eligible** for early entrance into kindergarten, or;
- The student **did** demonstrate the needed readiness skills and **is eligible** for early entrance into kindergarten on a trial basis.

Families of students found eligible for early entrance must complete the regular registration process through Admissions in June to ensure the student's enrollment in a kindergarten classroom for September 2017.

Q: What are the dates and times for Evaluation Process this year?

All evaluations will be conducted on Saturdays in May. Evaluation dates and times will be assigned **when AND if** all application materials have been received by the deadline. You will be notified of your evaluation appointment by email.

Q: How do I apply for an early entrance to kindergarten evaluation for my child?

Step 1: Apply

Applications are available online beginning in March, 2017 at www.seattleschools.org/advlearning. Click on the [Early Entrance to Kindergarten](#) link.

Step 2: Complete Application and Processing Fee*

Complete the application and the processing fee form. **The processing fee for early entrance screening is \$130.00.** For families that qualify for reduced fee based on family income, the processing fee is reduced to \$20.00 (see table for qualifying criteria). Make check payable to Seattle Public Schools **and include it in the application packet.**

***Please note:** The processing fee is nonrefundable. The processing fee pays for clerical support for scheduling; the management of testing materials and activities; and for the extra time required of kindergarten teachers, school psychologists, test administrators, and clerical support.

Step 3: Submit Application by Deadline

Mail the completed application form and the processing fee form with your check or money order to: Early Entrance to Kindergarten, MS 32-936, PO Box 34165, Seattle, WA 98124-1165. Applications may be hand-delivered to the Stanford Center at 2445 Third Avenue South (3rd and Lander) and place in the Advanced Learning drop-off box on the information kiosk. Applications must be received by **April 17, 2017 at 4:00 PM.**

Q: How will I know you have received my application? How will I know when my child is scheduled for evaluation?

An email confirming the receipt of your application and your child's evaluation appointment will be sent only to those whose applications are complete and on-time. If you have not been notified by April 21, 2017, **AND** if your application was complete and on-time, please e-mail: mskawasaki@seattleschools.org.



Advanced Learning

Mailing address: **M.S. 32-936 – P.O. Box 34165 Seattle, WA 98124-1165**

Web address: www.seattleschools.org/advlearning Phone: 206-252-0130

Q: What if my child doesn't meet standards for Early Entrance, and I do not believe the scores represent my child's kindergarten readiness skills?

You may appeal the decision to the Multidisciplinary Selection Committee. First, submit a letter informing us of your intention to appeal. Then, compile compelling, written evidence of your child's academic skills, language development, physical coordination, and social maturity. Mail all documentation in one packet to the Advanced Learning Office by June 5. These appeals will be considered and resolved by June 14.

All appeals and supporting assessment information must be received by the Advanced Learning Office no later than 4:00 PM on Monday, June 5, 2017 for consideration.

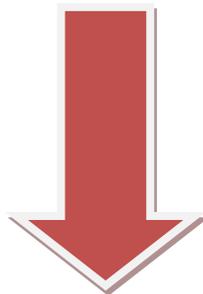
Q. If found eligible to enter kindergarten early, how do I enroll my child.

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS SUBMIT ENROLLMENT FORMS TO THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE in the lobby of THE JOHN STANFORD CENTER, 2445 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH (3RD AND LANDER), FROM 8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

See The Admissions Center website for enrollment forms www.seattleschools.org/admissions.

Application Deadline	April 17, 2017, 4:00 pm to Advanced Learning Office
Evaluations	Saturdays, May 6, 2017 and May 13, 2017
Appeals Deadline	Monday, June 5, 2017

SCROLL DOWN FOR APPLICATION FORM





Early Entrance to Kindergarten Evaluation Application

I have carefully read the Frequently Asked Questions about Early Entrance to Kindergarten before applying.

***** Application MUST INCLUDE the following *****

- I have included a check for \$130.00 Testing Processing Fee (Low Income Families, see page 2)
- I have included a copy of my child's birth certificate or passport
- I understand that if any of the required items are missing, the application will not be complete, and will be returned to me. The timeline for applying will not be extended.

Deadline to Advanced Learning: Thursday, April 17, 2017, 4:00 pm

Applications may be **hand-delivered** to the Stanford Center (2445 3rd Ave S) or **mailed** to Advanced Learning (see above).

PART 1 - Can be filled out electronically then printed

Student's Last Name	First Name	Middle	Date of Birth: month/day/year <i>(Attach Copies of Verification of Birth Date)</i>
Parent/Guardian Name (please print)			Please Check: Boy <input type="checkbox"/> or Girl <input type="checkbox"/>
Home Address		Zip code	Languages Spoken at Home
Phone Number(s)			Child's Primary Language
E-mail address			Has your child attended pre-school? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Will the family need an Interpreter to assist when the results of the test are shared? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>			Name of pre-school:
Student Ethnicity: What is your primary choice? (e.g., African American/ Black, White, Asian, Native American, Hispanic or Latino, etc.)			

PART 2 – Must be completed by hand

Student Readiness for Kindergarten

Students eligible for early entrance into Kindergarten are academically, physically, and socially ready to meet Kindergarten expectations. Please indicate your answers to the questions below.

Academic Skills			
Does your child know the basic colors (red, blue, yellow, black, white)?	Yes	No	
Can your child recite the alphabet in English?	Yes	No	
How many letters can your child identify (e.g., point & say "This is 'b'.")	Letters		
How many letters can your child write? How many letter sounds does your child identify?	Letters	Letter Sounds	
How high can your child count (e.g., to 10, to 100, higher)?	Counts to		
Does your child know basic shapes (e.g., circle, square, and triangle)?	Yes	No	
Can your child write his or her name?	Yes	No	
Physical Maturity			
Can your child climb stairs alternating feet?	Yes	No	
Does your child run? Jump? Hop?	Check all that apply: Run <input type="checkbox"/> Jump <input type="checkbox"/> Hop <input type="checkbox"/>		
Does your child use crayons, pencils or scissors?	Crayons <input type="checkbox"/>	Pencils <input type="checkbox"/>	Scissors <input type="checkbox"/>
Social Maturity			
Is your child able to separate from you, his/her parent/guardian	Yes	No	
Does your child follow adult directions or instructions well?	Yes	No	
When given a task to do, is your child able to work with the task until it is completed?	Yes	No	

Signature: _____

(Signature required)



Early Entrance to Kindergarten Reduced Fee Request Form (Low Income Families)

Deadline: Monday, April 17, 2017, by 4:00 pm

Due to my income, I request a reduction of the \$130.00 fee. I understand that I am still responsible for paying a \$20.00 processing fee. (Please locate your household income on the chart below and circle to determine eligibility for fee reduction.)

In certain circumstances due to extreme financial hardship, a waiver for this \$20 fee may be considered. For more information regarding this possibility, please write or call Matt Okun, 206-252-0182, mjokun@seattleschools.org prior to April 14, 2017.

INCOME CHART			
Effective from July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017			
<u>Circle</u> your family size and income on this chart.			
Household Size	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly
1	\$21,775	\$1,815	\$419
2	29,471	2,456	567
3	37,167	3,098	715
4	44,863	3,736	863
5	52,559	4,380	1,011
6	60,255	5,022	1,159
7	67,951	5,663	1,307
8	75,647	6,304	1,455
For each additional member add:	+7,696	+642	+148

I attest by signing below that my family income, as indicated above, makes us eligible for the reduced fee.

Signature: _____
(Signature required)