



Advanced Learning Student Services
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<http://www.seattleschools.org/area/advlearning/index.xml>

Evaluation for 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 entrance-screening requirements.

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

Your child's eligibility for early entrance to kindergarten will be based on 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 2009-2010 school year. Determination of final placement into kindergarten is the decision of the school principal.

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

Step 1: Screening

This screening takes approximately one hour and takes place in our local elementary school in the spring.

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

At the conclusion of the screening, the teachers review the information they have gathered and determine which students they recommend for individual testing.

Families will receive a letter indicating the outcome of the screening. There are two possible outcomes of the screening:

- 1) The student did not demonstrate the needed readiness skills and is not eligible for further testing, or
- 2) The student did demonstrate the required readiness skills and is eligible for individual testing.

The decisions are final.

If we determine that your child is eligible for individual testing, you will receive a letter setting an individual testing appointment date and time.

Step 2: Individual Testing

Individual testing by a school psychologist is available only to those students who complete the screening process and are determined to be eligible for individual testing.

The individual testing goes into more depth concerning your child's kindergarten readiness skills. It takes about one hour and is scheduled on a weekday in June 2009.

Step 3: Outcomes of Individual Testing

Families are notified of the results of the individual testing by the school psychologist at the conclusion of the testing session.

There are two possible outcomes of the individual testing:

1. The student did not demonstrate the needed readiness skills and is not eligible for early entrance into kindergarten, or
2. The student did demonstrate the needed readiness skills and is eligible for early entrance into kindergarten.

Families of students found eligible for early entrance must complete the regular registration process through Enrollment Services or the Bilingual Family Center to enroll the student into a kindergarten program for September 2009.

Step 4: Four-Week Trial Period

Students eligible for early entrance who enroll in a kindergarten program are assigned for a four-week trial period beginning at the start of the 2009-2010 school year. After four weeks, your child's kindergarten teacher and the building principal review your child's performance in the classroom to determine whether your child should continue as a kindergarten student. Determination of final placement into kindergarten is the decision of the school principal.

Q: What are the dates and times for this year's screening and individual testing?

Screening

This year's screening by the kindergarten teachers is either May 30, or June 6, 2009. The group screening is scheduled throughout the day (8:00 AM to 2:00 PM). Screening takes about one hour.

Your child will be scheduled for screening on ONE of these Saturdays. You will receive a letter by May 15, 2009 with your child's scheduled screening date and time.

Please keep BOTH dates available until you receive the notice of your child's scheduled time. You will receive only ONE appointment time, so plan ahead to be sure that your child will be able to take advantage of the scheduled screening appointment, regardless of the Saturday on which your specific appointment is scheduled.

Individual Testing

Individual testing with the school psychologist is scheduled for the last week of June 2009. Appointments will be made between 8:00 AM and 2:00 PM. Your child will be scheduled for an individual testing appointment on ONE of these days. Appointment letters will be mailed shortly after the kindergarten teacher screening.

Q: How do I apply to have my child participate in the early entrance into kindergarten evaluation?

Step 1: Pick up an application from an Enrollment Center or the Bilingual Family Center beginning April 7, 2009. Applications are also available at www.seattleschools.org.

Step 2: Complete the processing fee form. The processing fee for early entrance screening is \$90.00. A reduced processing fee of \$10.00 is granted to families that qualify based on family income (see table). Make check payable to Seattle Public Schools and include in the application packet.

The processing fee is nonrefundable, even if your child does not participate in the screening process. The processing fee pays for clerical support for scheduling testing; management of testing materials and activities; and for the time and effort of involved kindergarten teachers, school psychologists, and clerical support.

Step 3: Submit the completed application form and the processing fee form with your check or money order. Mail to: Advanced Learning, MS 32-936, PO Box 34165, Seattle, WA 98124-1165. Applications may be hand-delivered to the Stanford Center at 2445 Third Avenue South. Applications must be received by May 1, 2009 at 4:00 PM.

Q: How will I know you have received my application? How will I know when my child is scheduled for phase one of the screening?

A letter confirming that we have received your application will be mailed to you by May 10th. This letter will include your child's appointment for screening. If you have not received a letter by May 15, 2009, please call (206) 252-0130 or e-mail: vjstritzel@seattleschools.org.

Q: What if my child doesn't meet standards on the individual testing administered by the school psychologist and I do not believe the scores represent my child's kindergarten readiness skills?

You may appeal the decision to the Early Entrance Appeals Committee. The appeal must be written and offer compelling evidence of your child's academic skills, language development, physical coordination, and social maturity. Additional assessments can also be submitted.

In order to receive an assignment by July 20th, which is the last day before computers lock down for upgrades for three weeks, all appeals must be received by July 10th. These appeals will be considered and resolved by July 17th. The appeals process is available only for children who successfully complete the first phase as a result of the kindergarten teacher evaluation.

Submit all appeals and additional assessment information to the Advanced Learning Center at the Stanford Center no later than 4:00 PM on Friday, July 10, 2009.

ELIGIBLE STUDENTS MAY SUBMIT SCHOOL REGISTRATION AND APPLICATION INFORMATION TO THE ENROLLMENT CENTER AT THE JOHN STANFORD CENTER, 2445 THIRD AVENUE SOUTH, FROM 8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. BEGINNING JULY 13, 2009.

If your child is eligible for early entrance to kindergarten, the school psychologist will provide information about the enrollment process at the conclusion of the individual testing.