

5055
Enrollment in Kindergarten

To be admitted to a kindergarten program, which commences in the fall of the year, a child must be five years of age as of July 31 of the year of entry. Special exceptions may be made for younger children who are intellectually advanced. At a minimum, eligibility for the exception shall be based upon an analysis of the child's (1) mental ability, (2) pre-academic skills, and (3) fine motor skills.

Early Kindergarten Entrance

In compliance with Nebraska statute §79-214, commencing in school year 2012-2013, a child must be five years of age as of July 31 of the year of entry to kindergarten. As provided in section (2)(b) the Board shall admit a child to kindergarten who will reach the age of five years on or after August 1 and on or before October 15 of such school year if the parent or guardian requests such entrance and provides an affidavit stating that (i) the child attended kindergarten in another jurisdiction that would allow admission within the current year, (ii) the family anticipates relocation to another jurisdiction that would allow admission within the current year, or (iii) the child has demonstrated through the recognized assessment procedure outlined below and approved by the Board that he or she is capable of carrying the work of kindergarten.

Early Enrollment Assessment

Early kindergarten enrollment exceptions may be made for younger children who are intellectually advanced. At a minimum, eligibility for the exception shall be based upon an analysis of the child's (1) mental ability, (2) pre-academic skills, and (3) fine motor skills.

The kindergarten early entrance assessment procedures are designed to identify and place those children in kindergarten who:

- a. will turn 5 years of age between August 1 and October 15;
- b. are deemed by parents or guardians as being intellectually advanced and likely to benefit from advanced grade placement; and
- c. are selected on the basis of testing by professionals trained and certified to administer the assessments that will produce evidence of strength in:
 1. mental ability defined as scoring 84th percentile or above on a standardized assessment of cognitive ability such as the Wechsler Pre Primary Scale of Intelligence III, or the Stanford-Binet V,
 2. 75th percentile or greater on two tests of pre academic skills, one in reading and one in math, such as the Woodcock Johnson IV Letter-Word Identification and Applied Problems subtests, and
 3. a test of fine motor ability, scoring 75th percentile or above on a standardized measurement such as the Beery VMI

*A student must meet the above criteria in all areas to be considered eligible (cognitive, reading, math, and fine motor).

Parents will be notified in writing of the results of the Early Kindergarten Entrance assessment and the determination of the district evaluation team in a timely fashion; not to exceed three weeks after the assessments are completed.

It is the presumption of the Board of Education that students will enter kindergarten at the age prescribed by state regulation. The Board of Education understands that students whose birth dates closely miss the cutoff date for school attendance may have educational needs or demonstrated capabilities that warrant early admission to kindergarten.

Families who seek early admission of their child into kindergarten must obtain an *Early Entrance to Kindergarten Packet* from the Seward Elementary School Office located at 200 East Pinewood in Seward, Nebraska, or may request that a packet be mailed by calling telephone (402) 643-2968.

Parents must fill out the early entrance application forms and parent questionnaire. The assessment request must be completed and returned to the district no later than May 20th of the spring before fall enrollment to allow summer assessment to be completed. Fees for the assessment are the responsibility of the child's family payable to the School District.

Decisions regarding early kindergarten entrance must include consideration of the above regardless of race, color, gender, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, age, disability, or sexual orientation of children and/or their families. Institutional factors, such as capacity, may also be considered.

Adopted on: June 14, 2010

Revised on: November 14, 2011, October 14, 2013, January, 2015

Reviewed on: _____