Early Entrance to Kindergarten
2017-2018 Application Guide

Application Deadline
APRIL 13, 2017
If you have any questions about applying for Early Entrance to Kindergarten, please contact the Enrollment Center:

Address: 7051 Brooklyn Blvd.
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

Phone: (763) 585-7350
Email: enrollmentcenter@district279.org

Si necesita ayuda en español para llenar esta forma, por favor llame al siguiente número de teléfono: 763-585-7376.

Yog koj xav tau kev pab los yog muaj lus nug txog daim ntawv no, thov hu rau tus xov tooj 763-585-7375.
EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING IS:

- A check of vision, hearing, and developmental progress
- A review of immunizations and family information
- An individual review with parents of child’s progress and needs. It identifies needs that may require special attention before a child enters school

WHAT DOES A SCREENING LOOK LIKE?

Watch a short screening video that is posted on our website at www.district279.org/early-childhood-screening

IS THERE A COST?

Early Childhood Screening is FREE for all ISD 279 children who are 3 to 5 years old

WHEN SHOULD MY CHILD BE SCREENED?

State law requires screening before a child starts kindergarten. It is recommended that children be screened when they are 3 years old.

HOW DO I ARRANGE FOR MY CHILD TO BE SCREENED?

Appointments are necessary. Please call the Screening Office at 763-391-8776 to schedule an appointment. Your child can also be screened by your doctor’s office using the form available on our website at www.district279.org/early-childhood-screening.

WHAT IF I NEED A COPY OF MY CHILD’S SCREENING?

Please fax your request to 763-391-8762
APPLICATION

HOW TO APPLY

1 CONFIRM ELIGIBILITY
To qualify for enrollment in kindergarten, your child must turn age 5 on or before September 1 of the school year desired.

Children who turn age 5 between September 2 and November 1 of the school year desired are eligible to apply for Early Entrance to Kindergarten.

2 ENSURE EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING IS SCHEDULED
Early Childhood Screening must be scheduled prior to applying for Early Entrance to Kindergarten. Please see Page 3 for details.

Children who attend Head Start or Early Childhood Special Education programs may not need to be screened. For more information call (763) 391-8776.

3 APPLICATION DEADLINE - APRIL 13, 2017
The Early Entrance to Kindergarten Application must be received at the Enrollment Center by 3:30pm on APRIL 13, 2017. The Enrollment Center is open Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 3:30pm.

4 VERIFY RECEIPT OF APPLICATION (OPTIONAL)
You may verify the receipt of your application by contacting the Enrollment Center at:
Phone: (763) 585-7350
Email: enrollmentcenter@district279.org

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What if I missed the April 13th application deadline?
If you missed the April 13th deadline, Early Entrance to Kindergarten is no longer an option. Your child may enroll in kindergarten next fall.

What if my child was accepted for Early Entrance to Kindergarten in another school district?
Each school district’s Early Entrance to Kindergarten process is significantly different. Therefore, all Early Entrance to Kindergarten applications for Osseo Area Schools must be received by 3:30pm on April 13, 2017.
1. **Legal Name:**

   EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS ON BIRTH CERTIFICATE OR OTHER LEGAL DOCUMENT

   Last (family)  First  Middle  Jr., III, etc.

2. **Preferred First Name:**

3. **Gender:**

   [ ] Male  [ ] Female

4. **Birth Date:**

   [ ] Male  [ ] Female

   [ ] Month  [ ] Day  [ ] Year

5. **List all of the student's siblings:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sibling Name</th>
<th>First</th>
<th>Middle Initial</th>
<th>Jr., III, etc.</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Birth Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>/ /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>/ /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>/ /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>/ /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>/ /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>/ /</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. **Early Entrance Preparation**

   6. Please list your child's experience with groups of other children away from his/her parent(s)/guardian(s), such as nursery school, preschool, etc.:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Facility or Provider</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
<th>Dates of Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>( ) -</td>
<td>/ / to / /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>( ) -</td>
<td>/ / to / /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>( ) -</td>
<td>/ / to / /</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>( ) -</td>
<td>/ / to / /</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. **How do you think it would benefit your child to start school a year early?**

8. **In what ways does your child demonstrate above average intellectual and social readiness for school?**

9. **How does your child feel about school?**
Early Childhood Screening must have been completed prior to applying for Early Entrance to Kindergarten.

Early Childhood Screening is required by the State of Minnesota for kindergarten admission and is a careful check of your child’s health, well-being, and development. The results of the screening will help identify needs that may require special attention before your child enters school.

You may have your child’s Early Childhood Screening completed by:
- The ISD 279 Screening Office. Call (763) 391-8776, Monday-Thursday, September through May, to schedule an appointment. There is no cost for your child to be screened by District 279.
- Your family physician, if a standardized development test is used. Check with your doctor’s office to see if their screening meets the state’s requirement.

Children who attend Head Start or Early Childhood Special Education programs may not need to be screened. Call (763) 391-8776 for more information.

11. Provide the date and location where your child’s Early Childhood Screening was completed:

Name of School District, Physician/Clinic, Head Start, or Early Childhood Special Education Program

Location
Date of Screening

12. I have attached a copy of the results of my child’s Early Childhood Screening.

Initials of Parent/Guardian:

13. I understand that if my child does not meet the criteria for any of the two steps (Observation and Evaluation) of the Early Entrance to Kindergarten assessment, he/she will not be authorized to continue in the Early Entrance to Kindergarten process.

Initials of Parent/Guardian:

14. I understand that, due to the time and resources required for the Early Entrance to Kindergarten process, all decisions regarding my child’s eligibility are final.

Initials of Parent/Guardian:

15. I understand that entering kindergarten early as a four-year-old means probationary admission through the end of the first trimester. I will be notified by the school if the needs of my child would be better met by entering school as a kindergartner the following year.

Initials of Parent/Guardian:

16. Parent Name:

Last (family) First M.I.

17. Address:

Number and Street Apt.

City State Zip Code

Primary Alternate

Area Code Area Code

18. Telephone:

19. I hereby give consent for the assessment of my child. The school district has my permission to contact any of the Early Entrance preparation facilities or providers listed. I certify the information given above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: Date:
The process of qualifying for the Early Entrance to Kindergarten program consists of three steps:

1. Appointment with Enrollment Center staff
2. Observation
3. Evaluation/Cognitive Assessment

After each step, children who have met the criteria established for that particular step will be authorized to continue in the Early Entrance to Kindergarten assessment process.

**APPOINTMENT WITH ENROLLMENT CENTER STAFF (April)**

Parents will have a scheduled appointment with an Enrollment Center staff member to complete the ASQ:SE Information Summary. After the summary is reviewed, an observation will be scheduled for the simulated kindergarten experience.

**OBSERVATION (May)**

An observation team composed of administrators, kindergarten and early childhood teachers will conduct an initial review of your child in a simulated kindergarten environment looking for social and emotional maturity, self-regulation, language skills, and fine motor skills.

The Enrollment Center will notify the parent/legal guardian with the date and time of their child’s observation. Rescheduling is usually not possible.

**OBSERVATION RESULTS (Late May/Early June)**

The Enrollment Center will notify the parent/legal guardian via letter if the child:

- Is recommended to proceed to the Evaluation/Cognitive Assessment process; or
- Is not recommended for Early Entrance to Kindergarten.

If the child is recommended to proceed to the Evaluation/Cognitive Assessment process, the Enrollment Center will provide the parent/guardian with information on the next step.

**EVALUATION/COGNITIVE ASSESSMENT (Must be completed by 6/30/17; and the Psychologist’s results to the Enrollment Center by 7/14/17)**

For those children recommended to proceed to the Evaluation/Cognitive Assessment step, the Enrollment Center will provide the name of the organization who can administer a Cognitive Assessment for your child.

- The parent/legal guardian has sole responsibility to pay for and schedule the child’s assessment.
- The minimum IQ requirement is 125.
- The psychologist providing the assessment typically uses a sliding fee scale to adjust the cost of the assessment in relation to the parent/legal guardian’s income.
- Cognitive results must be submitted directly to the Enrollment Center by the organization.

**EVALUATION RESULTS (Mailed by 7/28/17)**

The Enrollment Center will notify the parent/legal guardian via letter if the child:

- May enter kindergarten early on a probationary admission; or
- Will not be admitted for Early Entrance but may enroll in kindergarten the following fall.

If the child is recommended for probationary admission, the Enrollment Center will provide the parent/guardian with the information needed to enroll the child in kindergarten. For questions on open enrolling your child, see page 9, “Can I Choose The School That My Child Attends?”
PREPARING FOR OBSERVATION

Once parents have become informed about Early Entrance to Kindergarten and decided to proceed with the observation, the child should be given every opportunity to perform well. Prepare the child physically by getting him or her to bed early the night before, providing breakfast, comfortable play clothes and shoes.

The best approach to prepare your child for the day is usually a straightforward one. Explain to your child that he or she will be working with someone who helps the teachers at school and that there will be other children waiting to do the same activities. The activities are fun, and they should enjoy the session while doing their best. Bring things for your child to work on quietly if they have to wait a few minutes for their appointment.

The focus is on gathering information to help adults make decisions about your child’s readiness to enter school early and have a successful and positive school experience. Many children who participate in the observation are developing normally, but may not meet the criteria for Early Entrance. Be supportive of your child, and help him or her have a good experience.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will my child feel if he/she is not among the children who met the criteria for acceptance?

A child’s reaction usually depends on how the situation has been presented and how parents react to the admission decision. Parents who react strongly to the results may send the message to the child that he/she has failed or done something wrong. The child will maintain self esteem if the parents present the information positively and stress how much better prepared the child will be after another year in preschool.

What are some reasons children do not meet the criteria?

The basic reason is that most children are developing at a normal or slightly above average rate.

Why are the standards for Early Entrance so rigorous?

Past experience and research have shown that most children do better when they enter school with their age group. Children who enter early are placed in a situation with others who may be a year older who have had the advantage of additional life experience and development. High standards in the Early Entrance to Kindergarten process helps ensure that kindergarten readiness is demonstrated consistently among several areas of development. Over the past two years, only 2% of the students have been recommended for Early Entrance to Kindergarten on a probationary basis.
Early Entrance to Kindergarten enrollment is probationary until the end of the first trimester.

The child’s school will notify the parent/guardian by the end of the first trimester if the child is recommended to:
- Continue in kindergarten; or
- Withdraw for the remainder of the school year and return for kindergarten the following fall.

ABOUT PROBATIONARY ADMISSION

Probationary admission means that school staff will be monitoring your child to ensure that kindergarten is appropriate to his/her learning, social-emotional, and developmental needs. If the kindergarten setting is not an appropriate match for the needs of your child, he/she may be removed from school and asked to enroll the following fall.

It will be important to attend school conferences, maintain communication with the classroom teacher, and have a back-up plan in the event that kindergarten is not appropriate for your child at this time. If a child were to be removed prior to the end of the probationary admission period, we highly recommend that the child attend a preschool program.

Can I choose the school that my child attends?

Yes, with limitations. Parent/legal guardians applying for Early Entrance to Kindergarten for their child may apply through school choice for their child to attend a school outside of their attendance area school or resident district after the child has been approved for Early Entrance to Kindergarten. Since the Early Entrance process is not finalized until the summer of the school year desired, the number of kindergarten spaces available through the school choice option, including magnet schools, are typically limited.

Are there any school-age care options?

Our Community Engagement Department offers a program called Kidstop as an option for supervised care before and/or after the school day for children entering Kindergarten through grade 5, and on most non-school days for an additional fee.

Kidstop provides a safe, fun, structured environment in which your child experiences learning through a variety of activities, coupled with one-stop convenience in the safety of a classroom at your school. Kidstop and classroom teachers collaborate together to ensure your child/ren have a fun and supportive experience that builds upon their school day.

Families may also be interested in our Four Star Express program. Four Star Express is an all-day preschool program offered at eight elementary schools, and is heavily integrated into the elementary experience. Children in Four Star Express engage in a fun and rigorous curriculum, have the opportunity to make friends and develop socially, and receive regular instruction from school specialists in the area of Physical Education, Music and Media.

For more information about Kidstop or Four Star Express, please visit our website at [www.kidstop279.org](http://www.kidstop279.org). If you have any additional questions, you can email them to [cecares@district279.org](mailto:cecares@district279.org) or phone 763-585-7281.

PLEASE REMEMBER...

Once all acceptance criteria has been met, YOU as the parent/guardian make the final decision to enroll your child through Early Entrance to Kindergarten on a probationary basis. You may choose to withdraw your child at any point in time during the Early Entrance to Kindergarten process.
Our mission is to inspire and prepare all students with the confidence, courage and competence to achieve their dreams; contribute to community; and engage in a lifetime of learning.