

## PROCEDURES FOR EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN

The following assessment procedure for determining if a child is capable of carrying the work of kindergarten is approved and shall be made available to interested persons:

Early kindergarten enrollment exceptions may be made for younger children who are intellectually advanced. At a minimum, eligibility for the admission shall be based upon an analysis of the child's: (1) mental ability, (2) emotional/social development, (3) pre-academic skills, and (4) fine motor skills.

The kindergarten early entrance assessment procedures are designed to identify and place in kindergarten those children 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. a test of emotional/social development such as the Behavior Assessment System for Children, Second Edition (BASC-2);
  3. 75th percentile or greater on a test of pre-academic skills such as the Woodcock Johnson III; and
  4. a test of fine motor ability, scoring 75th percentile or above on a standardized measurement such as the Beery VMI.

The decision regarding early entrance to kindergarten requires careful consideration of all factors that affect kindergarten success with final determination to be made based on the recommendation of the Elementary Principal. The academic, social, and emotional readiness, as well as the student's physical development and well-being, must be weighed with institutional factors also considered. Sound decision making in the area of early entrance to kindergarten is dependent upon reliable information regarding a student's readiness and a thoughtful balancing of the myriad of factors implicated by the decision. 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

Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

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 superintendent's office at 1501 Front Street, Henderson, Nebraska or may request that a packet be mailed by calling (402) 723-4434.

Parents must fill out the early entrance application forms, which include a parent questionnaire and obtain and attach a reference letter from someone who is well acquainted with the child but not a relative of the child. The person providing this reference should know the child well enough that they can speak with some expertise about the child's attributes and abilities. The reference letter should indicate whether this person recommends the child be schooled with children who will be a year older than the child and, if so, the evidence this person has concerning the child's mental ability, fine and gross motor ability, visual and auditory discrimination, emotional/social development, and communication skills. Suggestions for this reference letter are a preschool teacher, a Sunday school teacher, a day-care provider, or a physician.

The assessment request, reference letter and parent questionnaire must be completed and returned to the district no later than May 25th 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 and shall not be made based on race, color, gender, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, age, disability, or sexual orientation of the child or the child's parents or guardians. Institutional factors, such as capacity, may also be considered.