

Ron Thiele, Superintendent

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Thank you for your inquiry about early entrance into kindergarten in the Issaquah School District. School districts in Washington State are not required to accept children unless they are five (5) years old by August 31; however, the Issaquah School District is willing to work with families if they believe their child is ready for school early. To be considered for early entrance into kindergarten, a child must be five (5) years of age on or before November 30 of the year of entry. In addition, an assessment report indicating the child has met all the requirements stated below must be received by the District office no later than **July 15, 2021**.

In order to assure, as much as possible, that a child is ready, our district regulation specifies that a child must demonstrate a maturity level as specified in district established criterion in all seven categories before we can invite them to participate in a probationary kindergarten experience. The seven categories are (1) mental ability, (2) gross motor skills, (3) fine motor skills, (4) visual discrimination, (5) auditory discrimination, (6) emotional/social development, and (7) language development. A student must score at or above the 90th percentile in all seven categories as outlined in the Early Entrance Assessment Results form.

If your child meets standard in all seven categories, she/he will be granted a thirty (30)-calendar day trial period in kindergarten. Teachers and principal will review placement during the first thirty (30) calendar days of school, and a determination for permanent admission will be made at that time.

The Issaquah School District does not do the admissions testing. Enclosed is a list of professionals who other Issaquah School District families have accessed. We do not recommend one over the other, but you are free to talk with them and select the one that most closely meets your needs. Only the enclosed approved testing areas and assessment instruments will be accepted in determining eligibility.

We do encourage you to think seriously about the implications for your child's future. School is more than just academics. Maturity and social competence are often as important to a child's overall success as intellectual capacity. Depending on a child's birthdate, early entrance could result in an age difference of up to two years between your child and their grade level peers. For that reason, rather than pursue early entrance some families choose to keep a child out of school for an extra year to provide an additional measure of maturity.

We look forward to partnering with you in the future. For questions, call the office of the Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education (425.837.7025) if you have questions about early entrance. If you choose to proceed with testing, results must be returned to our district office by **July 15, 2021** in order for a final decision to be made for the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,



Jodi Bongard
Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education

1/18/21

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