

Ron Thiele, Superintendent

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Making the decision to pursue early entrance to place a child ahead of the normal grade level is a significant one. Decisions such as this have implications far beyond the immediate school year and need to be considered carefully. 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 birthday, 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 enroll their child in the age appropriate grade.

The Issaquah School District does not test a child for early entrance into first grade. We can accept a child into first grade who is younger than six years old by August 31 in two ways:

1. Completion of a State certified private kindergarten program of no less than 1,000 hours per year with a state certificated teacher providing the classroom instruction. We also need a written statement from the teacher on school letterhead indicating the child's readiness to enter first grade.
2. Completion of a kindergarten program in another state's public-school system that may use a date later than Washington State's August 31 deadline for school admission.

If your child meets one of the above criteria, please complete and return the attached form along with required documentation to the office of the Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education (425.837.7025) no later than **July 15, 2021** for eligibility review.

If neither one of these two conditions has been met but the parents still want to enroll the child in first grade, we use the following process:

Enroll the child in the age-appropriate grade (kindergarten). The teacher will then be able to observe the child in relation to the other children and determine if the child is sufficiently advanced beyond the others to make it necessary to move him or her ahead. If it appears the change should be made, the teacher will bring the child to the attention of the school guidance team, which in turn makes a recommendation to the building principal for a final decision.

Our teachers are accustomed to working with very capable children and can provide rigorous instruction across a wide range of abilities. In addition, Issaquah's general school population performs well above average. It's likely your child will have very capable peers who will provide a challenging environment in which he or she can thrive in an age-appropriate classroom.

We look forward to collaborating with you in the future. For questions, call the office of the Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education (425-837-7025).

Sincerely,



Jodi Bongard
Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education

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