



SUNSET RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT 29

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Cultivating a learning community that engages the hearts and minds of students, one child at a time

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES EARLY KINDERGARTEN ENTRANCE

Early Entrance to Kindergarten

Sunset Ridge School District 29 complies with Illinois law which specifies that to enter kindergarten, children must be five years of age by September 1st of their kindergarten year. However, District 29 allows exceptions to this law for children whose cognitive, academic, functional, and social emotional potential and skills are in the very superior range when compared with their peers.

District 29 has identified early entrance to kindergarten as whole-grade acceleration, appropriate for those students who are intellectually and social-emotionally advanced. District 29 is responsible for determining whether a child is appropriate for early entrance, and the District will complete all necessary assessments.

To be considered for early entrance, students must demonstrate advanced characteristics in cognitive, academic, functional, and social-emotional domains. District 29 utilizes a systematic process that involves review of records, observation, interview, and testing.

To be eligible for consideration for early entrance to kindergarten, the child must:

- Turn five years old by October 31st of the school year for which they are seeking entrance,
- Have attended an early childhood center/preschool (public or private),
- Have a recommendation from a preschool teacher endorsing early entrance to kindergarten.

Parents/guardians wishing to apply for early entrance for their child must complete the following initial steps:

- Contact the Middlefork School Principal,
- Complete and submit the **Early Kindergarten Entrance Request Form** (provided below),
- Provide a copy of the student's birth certificate,
- Verify the potential student's residency according to District 29 residency requirements,
- Provide a written letter from the current teacher recommending placement. If available, provide a copy of the student's report card or other rating document from the current school.
- Sign a **Release of Information Form** to allow District 29 to communicate with the child's current school,
- Submit ALL of the above documents to the Middlefork School Principal by April 15 of the school year prior to the school year for which early entrance is sought.

Early Entrance Assessment and Decision-Making Process

Based on a review of the information provided above, District 29 will determine if the child should participate in a formal evaluation process (delineated below) to determine eligibility for early entrance into Kindergarten.

Assessment Process:

Step 1: Academic Screening

1. District 29 completes a screening of academic skills in reading and mathematics. The child must score above the 90th percentile on mid-year curriculum-based measurement probes at the kindergarten level.
2. District 29 completes a language screener to determine English proficiency for students who speak a second language or who have a second language present in the home.

If the student meets the criteria on the above academic screeners,

Step 2: Intellectual/Cognitive Assessment

3. District 29 completes an individual assessment of student intelligence. The child must score in the 130 or higher range of intelligence as measured by an individually administered cognitive assessment. District 29 does not accept private cognitive evaluations.

If the student meets the criteria on the individual assessment of student intelligence,

Step 3: Academic & Social Emotional Assessment

1. District 29 will administer a standardized academic achievement assessment. The child must receive a standardized score above 130, using mid-year kindergarten norms.
2. District 29 will determine whether the student demonstrates above average social-emotional development. This may be determined by interview, observation, and/or behavior rating scales administered by District 29 staff.

Based on the completed evaluation, and any additional data provided by parents, the District 29 team will make a decision regarding the eligibility for early Kindergarten placement.

EARLY KINDERGARTEN ENTRY REQUEST FORM

Child's Name (Last Name, First Name):
Birthdate (MM/DD/YY):
Gender:
District 25 Home School:
Street Address:
Home Phone:
Requesting Early Entrance to Kindergarten or First Grade?:

Parent/Guardian 1 Name:
Relationship to Child:
Phone Number:
Email:

Parent/Guardian 2 Name:
Relationship to Child:
Phone Number:
Email:

List any siblings who will be enrolled in school during the upcoming school year and their grade:

Is another language spoken in the home?

Does your child speak another language?

Current School Information

Name:
Phone Number:
Current Teacher Name:
Current Teacher Email: