

Early Admission to Kindergarten

Woodland School District 50 has established procedures to allow for parents to request early admission into kindergarten for their child whose fifth birthday falls after September 1 and by December 31st. This is in alignment with School Code 105 ILCS 5/10-20.12.

We believe in developing the whole child at Woodland Primary. The decision to allow for early admission into kindergarten is very important. The criteria for consideration for early admission includes two assessments (a kindergarten readiness assessment which is a combination of academic and social emotional readiness and an intelligence test) as well as a personal interview with the child. This data along with parent feedback will help determine if this will be the best path for the child. We will work collaboratively with the parents as we believe it is important to look at the whole child and we value parent input and the background information they can provide about their child. Together we will consider all factors which will include academic readiness as well as emotional readiness for early admission into kindergarten.

District 50 has developed specific criteria and procedures for considering early admission requests made by parents. The criteria for early admission is rigorous. Because this decision can impact the child's educational experience, we want to be sure that the child entering kindergarten early is ready to learn and be successful. All children need a strong foundation in kindergarten to build from as they progress through each grade. Those requesting early admission into kindergarten must demonstrate a need for early education, as determined by their readiness in developmental areas. Students must demonstrate capabilities that warrant early admission.

Decisions regarding early admission must include consideration of academic and emotional readiness regardless of race, color, gender, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, age, disability, or sexual orientation of children and or their families.

Steps to Request Early Admission to Kindergarten

1. The child must live within the Woodland School District 50 boundaries and turn five years old from September 2 and by December 31 of that school year.
2. Parents must submit the following paperwork on or before July 1 prior to the school year start date to initiate the process.
 - Early Admission into Kindergarten Request and Consent Google Form
 - Parent Questionnaire
 - Preschool Questionnaire (If the child has attended preschool)
3. Parents submit a certified copy of the child's birth certificate by July 1.

4. A non-refundable fee of \$250.00 is due at the time of testing. This fee covers the assessment services provided as a part of considering early admission to kindergarten.

Eligibility Process

1. The child will be scheduled for an one assessment appointment. All paperwork must be submitted to the school principal before an appointment can be scheduled. The assessment will take approximately 45 minutes to an hour. In May, parents will be contacted through email to set up an assessment time for June. If paperwork is received after the first assessment date the team will work to schedule an additional date in July.
2. During the appointment, the child will participate in a kindergarten readiness assessment that includes an academic portion, a student interview, and social emotional rating.
3. If another language is spoken in the home, the child will participate in a language assessment once they turn 5 years of age. Due to a second language being spoken in the home, the child will be placed in a classroom with a certified ESL kindergarten teacher to ensure that instruction includes language acquisition support.
4. Once the Early Entrance Request and Consent Google Form has been submitted, the principal will contact the family within thirty calendar days to verify the request has been received.
5. A follow up meeting will be scheduled when the assessment appointment is scheduled. The principal will share the final decision with the family at the conclusion of the process. Students that have met the admission criteria will be admitted for the upcoming school year. For students that have not met the early admission criteria, the families have the right to appeal the principal's decision with the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning.
6. If families participate in an appeal process, all data will be reviewed and based on the assessments, final review by the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, and parent conference, a decision will be made. Once the appeal process has occurred, all decisions are final.
7. The success of students granted early admission to kindergarten will be closely observed by the school team. These students will be tracked and data will be collected on their initial adjustment to kindergarten during the first 30 days of school. The principal will meet with the parents following the first 30 days of kindergarten to share the child's progress and acclimation to school. At the conference the child's current performance level will be shared as well as an overview of how the child is responding to classroom expectations and daily routines. If there are concerns, the team will review the child's specific needs and put supports in place to be successful.

Assessment Guidelines

- The child should score within the superior range (91st percentile or higher) of intelligence as measured by an individual test of cognitive ability administered by certified District 50 staff.
- The child should demonstrate above-average social-emotional development as determined by the interview with the child and assessment observations.
- The child should score within the superior range (91st percentile or higher) of academic tasks across reading, writing, and mathematics.

Dual Language Program Considerations

Early admission to kindergarten applicants that are interested in enrolling in the Dual Language program should abide by all district-wide procedures and deadlines in order to be considered. This applies to both lottery participants and siblings of current Dual Language program students.

To get your child's name on the Dual Language lottery list you will need to contact the School Principal or Bilingual and Dual Language Education Coordinator before March 1st to discuss this process.