

## EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN

Children who are 5 years of age on or before September 1 are eligible for kindergarten enrollment. Parents/guardians of children who reach their 5th birthday from September 2nd to October 15th may apply for Early Admission to Kindergarten. These children will receive testing/screening to determine whether their abilities suggest they may be an exception to the September 1st eligibility deadline.

\*It is important to be aware that early admission is only approved for children with intellectual functioning in the Very Superior range. This means that they are functioning intellectually at or above 98% of other children their same age. As a result of this requirement, only a very small number of children meet the criteria for early admission. If a child passes this first stage of the screening, they will be invited to the kindergarten screening day in May for the second stage of screening for consideration for early admission.

Referrals for early admission testing should only be made if a parent believes their child's intellectual functioning is very superior when compared to other children their age. Children who are recommended for early admission must also have superior development in the additional areas of motor, social, emotional, and behavioral development as the child is essentially being advanced an entire grade level throughout their academic career. The criteria set by the district for early admission are exceptionally high due to the significant impact this decision can have on children as they progress through later grades and life events in adolescence with an older peer group. All decisions related to a child's education are vital and deserve the careful deliberation of parents and school personnel. The question of early admission is particularly delicate because positive early educational experiences are the basis for future school success.

**Parents interested in learning more about the early admission procedure may obtain an application packet by contacting the Department of Pupil Services at 262-253-3916. The completed packet must be returned by March 29 to be considered.**

Please be aware that most children who are screened for early entrance do not qualify. Be sure to seek out other options, such as preschool or daycare centers with appropriate programs, in the event that early entrance is not recommended. It is best not to wait until the early entrance decision is made to seek out other possible options, as they may be filled by that time.