

Early Entrance to Kindergarten

All students who will be 5 years of age by August 31 are eligible to enroll in Kindergarten at Granite Falls School District. For those students with birthdates between September 1 and October 15, early entrance into Kindergarten may be permitted based on results of assessments and observations administered by the school district.

Eligibility Criteria

Children must turn 5 years of age between September 1 and October 15.

Child should have completed a preschool program within the last 24 months where they gained experience with structured lessons and group learning opportunities. A preschool program is defined as a learning experience in which a child has participated in age appropriate academic and social experiences in a group setting under the supervision of a lead teacher.

Application Process

Application packets are available at each elementary school beginning in May. During summer, the packets are available at the district office.

The application includes two social-emotional questionnaires, one to be completed by the parent and one to be completed by the preschool program that the child attended. These questionnaires may be mailed to district office or turned in at the child's assessment appointment.

Applications must be turned in to the district office no later than July 21st in order to be considered for early entrance and must contain a check/money order for the assessment fee.

Assessment Fee

Families will pay the assessment fee at the time of application as indicated below. The fee covers the cost of administering assessments.

Full fee: \$200

Partial fee* waiver: \$100

*Partial fee waivers are awarded to income-eligible families based on the same yearly income requirements as free-reduced lunch

Assessment Process

Assessments will be scheduled in early August. If your child is not able to attend the assessment on the scheduled date, early entrance cannot be considered.

Each child will be assessed in the areas of oral language development, visual motor development, cognitive development, and social development. Students are expected to perform at the above average range in order to be considered for early entrance.

On the scheduled assessment date, students will arrive at the assessment site at 9 am. Parents are permitted to settle their students, but are expected to leave the child to participate in a Kindergarten classroom experience with one or more Kindergarten teacher. Students will also be individually assessed by a school district employee on this day. Students can be picked up at 12 pm.

There will be no retesting of students as retesting would compromise the validity of the measure.

Assessment Results

Follow the assessment date, all scores will be presented to a committee of educational professionals who will determine if a student should be granted early entrance.

Assessment results will be mailed to families with a report of your child's performance. The results letter will indicate whether or not your child will be granted early entrance. Results will be mailed no later than August 15.

Appeals Process

There is no appeals process for early entrance to Kindergarten. The results of the assessments and final determination of the committee are final.

Placement

Students who are granted early entrance will receive specific placement information (teacher assignment) in the mail.

Trial Placement

All students who are granted early entrance will participate in a trial period. If it is determined during the six-week trial period that early entrance was not appropriate, the child will be withdrawn from the program following a conference with the parents, teacher and principal.