Kindergarten Early Entrance Process

The Shoreline School District does not recommend the placement of children in kindergarten before their 5th birthday. It is the desire of the district that children have a successful kindergarten experience and, in most cases, this is best achieved when they enter kindergarten at an older, rather than younger, age.

Please take into consideration that each year, a number of early entrance students end up withdrawing at the end of the evaluation period (30 days). For the majority of the withdrawn students, the chief obstacle to their success was emotional maturity and the ability to handle a 5-day, high demand educational setting - not their academic readiness.

Also, keep in mind that the decision to enter school early is not just a kindergarten decision. It is a decision that impacts the student’s entire school career including when they enter puberty, start driving and meet other developmental milestones relative to their classmates.

However, recognizing that a single cut-off date does not meet the individual needs of all students, and some may be sufficiently advanced to succeed in the program, the Shoreline School District has established an evaluation process for early entrance to kindergarten for those students turning 5 between September 1 and October 31.

An assessment by a Washington licensed psychologist or a Washington certificated school psychologist is required before your child can be considered for early entrance. To qualify, your child’s performance must demonstrate above average ability in each of the following areas: cognitive development, fine motor development, visual discrimination and auditory discrimination. Shoreline School District has approved specific tests to administer. No substitutions of the test will be allowed. Scheduling & paying for the assessment is the responsibility of the parent.

If you have any questions regarding early entrance please call 206.393.4365 or email trinitee.king@shorelineschools.org.