

**St. Anthony-New Brighton**

**Early Kindergarten Admission**

***April, 2014***

MDE Information

Kindergarten

**NEW! Full-Day Kindergarten Funding Available to School Districts and Charter Schools Fall 2014**

Full-day kindergarten provides crucial opportunities for Minnesota's younger learners to build upon their prekindergarten or early learning experiences to sustain the development of their cognitive, social, emotional and physical skills. Beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2014, funding will be available to school districts and charter schools to provide full-day kindergarten. [View Minnesota Statutes, section 126C.05, Subdivision 1\(d\), on funding full-day kindergarten.](#)

**Full-Day Kindergarten Implementation**

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) is developing guidance for districts on implementing a full-day kindergarten program. Support will include: research-based practices, instructional support and design recommendations and resources for all learning domains; support for curriculum and assessment alignment, scheduling, creating effective learning environments; family engagement strategies; school nutrition programs, and school finance and reporting guidelines. Guidance on district implementation and on developing school-board approved policies for early entrance are available now.

**Kindergarten Entrance Requirements**

In Minnesota, children are eligible to attend kindergarten when they are five-years-old on or before September 1 of the calendar year that schools starts. [View Minnesota Statutes section 120A.20.](#) In addition to the age requirement, each child entering kindergarten must:

- Provide documentation of required immunizations. [View Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.15.](#) To learn more about Minnesota School Immunization Laws, visit the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) website.
- Participate in a school district's Early Childhood Screening program. A child may also meet this requirement by participating in a comparable health and developmental screening program provided by Head Start, Child and Teen Checkups or through a health care provider. If a parent is a conscientious objector to the screening program for their child, the child does not need to participate in the state screening program. [View Minnesota Statutes section 121A.17.](#)

**New Requirements for Early Kindergarten Entrance**

- Children who are not yet five-years-old on or before September 1 may be considered for kindergarten early entrance. Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.02, allows for school boards to permit selected children early admission into kindergarten if there is an early admission policy established by the school board. [View the Minnesota Statute on early kindergarten entrance.](#)
- Requires parents and the commissioner to have access to the board's early kindergarten admission policy. Charter schools must post the early entrance policy on their website. The early entrance policy is subject to an MDE audit.
- Requires a school board that has adopted a policy to allow a child under the age of five to enroll in kindergarten to establish a comprehensive evaluation to be used to help determine the child's cognitive, social, and emotional development and the child's ability to meet kindergarten grade expectations and progress to first grade the following year. The comprehensive evaluation must:

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- Use valid and reliable instrumentation.
- Be aligned with state kindergarten expectations.
- Include a parent report and teacher observations of the child's knowledge, skills, and abilities.

**Kindergarten Students and Gifted Education Programs**

- Children who enter kindergarten through early entrance may also be considered gifted and talented children through an assessment process.
- Requires districts to adopt procedures for early admission to kindergarten or first grade for gifted and talented learning. [View the Minnesota Statute for early admission for select students who are identified as gifted and talented.](#)
- Requires board-adopted policies for early admission to kindergarten to be based on a comprehensive evaluation to determine the child's ability to meet kindergarten expectations and progress to first grade the following year.

- [Kindergarten Programs Overview](#)
- [Kindergarten Schedule Enrollment](#)
- [Early Entrance into Kindergarten Comprehensive Evaluation Guidance](#)

## 2013 Minnesota Statutes

### 124D.02 SCHOOL BOARD POWERS; ENROLLMENT.

Subdivision 1. **Kindergarten instruction.** The board may establish and maintain one or more kindergartens for the instruction of children and after July 1, 1974, shall provide kindergarten instruction for all eligible children, either in the district or in another district. All children to be eligible for kindergarten must be at least five years of age on September 1 of the calendar year in which the school year commences. In addition all children selected under an early admissions policy established by the school board may be admitted. If established, a board-adopted early admissions policy must describe the process and procedures for comprehensive evaluation in cognitive, social, and emotional developmental domains to help determine the child's ability to meet kindergarten grade expectations and progress to first grade in the subsequent year. The comprehensive evaluation must use valid and reliable instrumentation, be aligned with state kindergarten expectations, and include a parent report and teacher observations of the child's knowledge, skills, and abilities. The early admissions policy must be made available to parents in an accessible format and is subject to review by the commissioner of education. The evaluation is subject to section 127A.41. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a school district from establishing Head Start, prekindergarten, or nursery school classes for children below kindergarten age. Any school board with evidence that providing kindergarten will cause an extraordinary hardship on the school district may apply to the commissioner of education for an exception.

Subd. 2. **Secondary school programs.** The board may permit a person who is over the age of 21 or who has graduated from high school to enroll in a class or program at a secondary school if there is space available. In determining if there is space available, public school students eligible for free enrollment under section 120A.20, subdivision 1, and shared-time students shall be given priority over students seeking enrollment pursuant to this subdivision, and students returning to complete a regular course of study shall be given priority over other students seeking enrollment pursuant to this subdivision. The following are not prerequisites for enrollment:

- (1) residency in the school district;
- (2) United States citizenship; or

(3) for a person over the age of 21, a high school diploma or equivalency certificate. A person may enroll in a class or program even if that person attends evening school, an adult or continuing education, or a postsecondary educational program or institution.

Subd. 3. **Counting pupils.** A district may not count a person enrolled pursuant to subdivision 2 as a pupil unit or a pupil in average daily membership for the purpose of receiving any state aid.

Subd. 4. **Part-time student fee.** Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 120A.20 and 123B.37, a board may charge a student enrolled pursuant to subdivision 2 a reasonable fee for a class or program.

**History:** Ex1959 c 71 art 4 s 17; 1961 c 225 s 1; 1967 c 173 s 2; 1969 c 21 s 1; 1969 c 104 s 1; 1973 c 491 s 1; 1975 c 359 s 23; 1978 c 616 s 5; 1979 c 334 art 6 s 9; 1980 c 609 art 6 s 16; 1981 c 194 s 1; 1981 c 358 art 7 s 22; 1982 c 548 art 6 s 4; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 309 s 24; 1987 c 398 art 7 s 20; 1988 c 626 s 1; 1988 c 668 s 2; 1988 c 718 art 7 s 21; 1991 c 265 art 6 s 22; art 9 s 36; 1992 c 499 art 12 s 8; 1993 c 224 art 12 s 16; art 13 s 17; 1994 c 647 art 6 s 11-13; 1Sp1995 c 3 art 9 s 20; art 16 s 13; 1996 c 412 art 3 s 10; art 6 s 1; 1Sp1997 c 4 art 6 s 7; art 7 s 4; 1998 c 397 art 1 s 54, 58; art 3 s 53; art 5 s 88-90; art 6 s 62-68; art 8 s 1, 2; art 11 s 3; 1998 c 398 art 6 s 17; 2003 c 130 s 12; 2006 c 263 art 1 s 4, 5; 2013 c 116 art 1 s 12

## **St. Anthony-New Brighton Early Kindergarten Admission Information**

*Early admission will be considered for students with a birth date after September 1 but no later than October 15. Please note that early admission is contingent on space being available in the Kindergarten class.*

### Step 1:

- Parents/guardians are encouraged to schedule an informational meeting with the building principal prior to completing the early kindergarten admission packet. The meeting may be scheduled during the school year, but no later than April 15.
- Parents/guardians are referred to the parent/guardian letter on the school district website for more information.

### Step 2:

- A completed application and a non-refundable processing fee of \$100 must be received no later than April 30 of the school year prior to the year the parent/guardian wishes the child to enter school. Students who would qualify for free and reduced lunch assistance may have the fee waived.
- The completed application must include the following forms:
  - Completed health form, physical, and required immunizations
  - Early childhood screening document (schedule through the St. Anthony Community Center (612)706-1166)
  - Early kindergarten admission application form

### Step 3:

- During the first two weeks of May, a time will be coordinated for the student to be assessed. The student will be assessed using a district assessment tool. The student must score at the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher to show superior performance in comparison to National normative data.
- Following the assessment, the student will participate in a teacher observation of the child's skills and abilities. A rubric will be used to assess social and emotional development. The student must meet or exceed each standard.
- While the child is being assessed, the parent/guardian will meet with the building principal to complete a parent/guardian questionnaire.

### Step 4:

- Following the classroom observation, the student must meet with the school psychologist and an assessment of academic readiness will be conducted.

Further information:

- The assessments will be used in conjunction with data previously gathered during the classroom observation and parent/guardian questionnaire for the team to review and make their final decision regarding early entrance. The team that will make this decision will consist of the principal, a kindergarten teacher, the intervention specialist and the school psychologist.
- If a parent/guardian would like to appeal the decision made by the elementary school staff, an appeal may be made to the superintendent. An administrative team will be formed to discuss the appeal.
- Contingent on space available, children who are proficient in all assessment areas may enroll in a six week trial period the following school year to determine the appropriateness of the placement. During this trial period, this child's cognitive abilities, motor development, as well as social and emotional maturity will be observed and compared with the previous assessment findings. A conference with the parent/guardian will be held to review the appropriateness of the placement. The principal and kindergarten teacher will determine the appropriateness of the placement and may either continue or end the placement.

## **St. Anthony-New Brighton Early Kindergarten Admission Parent/Guardian Letter**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The St. Anthony-New Brighton School District offers an early entrance option for children who live within the district and will turn 5 years old between September 2 and October 15. A student may be considered for early kindergarten entrance if the following can be clearly demonstrated: scores at the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile on the district assessment tool, scores a meets or exceeds rating on social and emotional development, demonstrates academic readiness using an assessment tool and possesses a high level of maturity. In order to meet these policy requirements, the district has established an Early Kindergarten Admission Evaluation process for all early admission candidates. Early admission happens rarely and on a case by case basis.

The evaluation consists of two stages of assessment. In the first stage, students are assessed using a district assessment tool. After completing the assessment, children will participate in a kindergarten classroom, without the parent/guardian present. A kindergarten teacher will conduct an observation of the child's skills and abilities. A rubric will be used to assess social and emotional development. A student must meet or exceed standards in each category. The second stage of assessment will be with the district psychologist. There, the student will be given an academic readiness assessment. After all the data is compiled, a decision on early kindergarten entrance is made by the district Early Kindergarten Admission Evaluation Team.

More information is available at the Wilshire Park office for those interested in the Early Kindergarten Admission option for the upcoming school year. Acceptance for early entrance is contingent based on space available in the kindergarten class. Please submit the application form and a non-refundable check for \$100 made payable to ISD #282 by April 30. Included in the application should be completed health forms (physical and required immunizations) and the Early Childhood Screening Document which you will receive after scheduling an appointment with the St. Anthony Community Center. If you live within the school district and your child meets the birth date eligibility requirement (student born after September 1 but no later than October 15) and all completed documents as well as payment is received, you will be contacted to schedule an assessment and teacher observation to begin the first stage of the evaluation. This assessment as well as the second assessment with the school psychologist will be scheduled during the Month of May. A final decision will be made in June.

Please contact the school if you have questions regarding the evaluation process.

Sincerely,

Kari Page

Principal

## St. Anthony-New Brighton Early Kindergarten Admission Application Form

Child's Name:	Sex:	Birth Date:	
Street Address:		City:	Zip Code:
Parent/Guardian:		Phone Number:	
Email:			
Parent/Guardian:		Phone Number:	
Email:			
Primary Language Spoken at Home:			

**Siblings:**

	Sex:	Age:
	Sex:	Age:
	Sex:	Age:
	Sex:	Age:

Please list all preschools attended and dates of attendance:

School:	Dates Attended:
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If your child has not attended preschool, please list any preschool-type experience your child has had:

After completing this application form, mail it along with a non-refundable check for \$100, payable to ISD #282, to the address below:

Wilshire Park Elementary School  
 Attn: Early Kindergarten Entrance  
 3600 Highcrest Road  
 St. Anthony, MN 55418



**St. Anthony-New Brighton Early Kindergarten Admission Teacher Rubric**

<b>4</b>	<b>Exceeds Standards</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Meets Standards</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Partially Meets Standards</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Does Not Meet Standards</b>

**Social/Emotional**

<b>Skill</b>	<b>Score</b>			
<b>Interacts well with others</b>	4	3	2	1
<b>Follows directions</b>	4	3	2	1
<b>Listens while others are talking</b>	4	3	2	1
<b>Participates and raises hand appropriately</b>	4	3	2	1
<b>Makes good use of time</b>	4	3	2	1
<b>Works independently</b>	4	3	2	1
<b>Respects property of others</b>	4	3	2	1
<b>General skills</b>	4	3	2	1
<b>General abilities</b>	4	3	2	1

**Comments:**



7. What is your child's interest and skill level in fine motor activities (cutting, writing)?

8. Describe the gross motor activities your child enjoys (i.e.: skipping, swinging, catching):

9. Mark the self-help tasks your child can perform independently:

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Dress in outer clothing: \_\_\_\_\_

Button: \_\_\_\_\_

Manage toileting: \_\_\_\_\_

Tie: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Describe your child's ability to play or work with other children:

11. Describe how your child reacts to frustration or conflict with others or with unfamiliar activities:

12. What do you see as possible advantages and disadvantages of acceleration?

Advantages:

Disadvantages:

## **St. Anthony-New Brighton Early Kindergarten Admission Website Information**

### **Early Kindergarten Admission Option**

Minnesota law states that children must be five years of age by September 1 to enter kindergarten. The St. Anthony-New Brighton School District offers an Early Admission option for students who have a birthday between September 2 and October 15 and reside within the school district. A student may be considered for early kindergarten admission if the following can be clearly demonstrated: scores at the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile on the district assessment tool, meets or exceeds standards on social and emotional development, and demonstrates a high level of maturity.

Applications are accepted from January 1 through April 30 each year. Assessments will be conducted in May. Acceptance will be contingent based on space in the kindergarten class. For further information please contact Wilshire Park Elementary School office at (612)706-1200.

\*Link to download the early entrance information and forms

## **503.1 EARLY KINDERGARTEN ADMISSION**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to professional staff, parents/guardians and students regarding early kindergarten admission.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

All children in Minnesota are required to begin attending school by the age of seven. Children are not required by statute to complete kindergarten before beginning first grade. The district recommends that all children attend kindergarten before entering first grade.

### **III. PROCEDURE**

- A.** Children who are five years of age on or before September 1 of the school year may enroll in kindergarten. The district will begin the registration process in December of the prior school year. The registration process will define the school enrollment options and kindergarten programming options available to kindergarten families.
- B.** Children who turn five years of age after September 1 but no later than October 15 of the calendar year in which the school year commences, may be considered for early entrance to kindergarten. The student must meet all eligibility requirements in order to be considered for early entrance. Acceptance will be contingent on space available in the kindergarten class.
  - 1. Parents/guardians are encouraged to schedule an informational meeting with the building principal prior to completing the early entrance packet. The meeting may be scheduled during the school year, but no later than April 15.
  - 2. A completed application and a non-refundable processing fee of \$100 must be received no later than April 30 of the school year prior to the year the parent/guardian wishes the child to enter school. Students who would qualify for free and reduced lunch assistance may have the fee waived.
  - 3. The completed application must include the following forms:
    - a. Completed health form, physical, and required immunizations
    - b. Early childhood screening document
    - c. Early Admission Application Form
  - 4. During the first two weeks of May, a time will be scheduled for the student to be assessed. The student will be assessed using a district assessment tool. The student must score at the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher to show superior performance in comparison to National normative data.
  - 5. Following the assessment, the student will participate in a teacher observation of the child's skills and abilities. A rubric will be used to assess social and emotional development. The student must meet or exceed each standard.
  - 6. While the child is being assessed, the parent/guardian will meet with the building principal to complete a parent/guardian questionnaire.
  - 7. Following the classroom observation, the student must meet with the school psychologist and an assessment of academic readiness will be conducted.