

South Umpqua School District Early Entrance to Kindergarten/First Grade

Dear Parent/Guardian:

You have requested information regarding early entry to kindergarten in the South Umpqua School District. Oregon law states that, *"children who have reached their fifth birthday on or before September 1st shall be admitted to kindergarten."* South Umpqua School District Board policy JEBA allows the parents of a child whose birthday falls after September 1st to apply for early entrance to kindergarten if the child's cognitive, social, and physical development indicate kindergarten readiness.

The skills and maturity level of a student are determined using the following instruments: a parent questionnaire, a preschool teacher questionnaire, observation of child in a preschool setting, and Bracken Assessment.

Attached, please find information that will assist you in your request for early entry screening and testing:

1. South Umpqua School District Policy JEBA regarding early entry to kindergarten.
2. The Request Process/Frequently Asked Questions for early entry consideration.
3. An application form for early entrance consideration.
4. A parent questionnaire.

Please note that the completed application should be returned to your South Umpqua School District neighborhood school no later than April 15th. Applications received after April 15th cannot be considered.

The assessment and screening process is performed by a team of education professionals. The team will review the assessment results and screening materials and a district representative will contact you after June 15th whether or not your child meets the criteria for early entrance. The team's decision is final.

Please contact the principal at your South Umpqua neighborhood school for any questions or clarifications regarding this process.

Thank you,
South Umpqua School District

Enclosures: Frequently Asked Questions, Policy JEBA, Application, Parent Questionnaire

South Umpqua School District

Early Entrance -- Frequently Asked Questions

Is Early Entrance right for my child?

Are you considering early entrance for your child? There are many factors to consider. This flyer describes the process used in South Umpqua School District to help you determine if early entrance may be a match.

What is the age requirement for kindergarten and first grade?

In Oregon, a child must be five years old on or before September 1 of the school year they wish to enter kindergarten. A child must be six years old on or before September 1 of the school year they want to enter first grade.

Are there any exceptions?

Early entry into school will be allowed for a student whose fifth (Kindergarten) or sixth (first grade) birthday occurs between September 2nd and October 1st and who is sufficiently advanced to succeed in the educational program based on an analysis by qualified professional staff of his/her cognitive, social, physical, and language development. **First graders** transferring from a public school do not need to apply for early entrance. **First graders** transferring from a private school will be assessed for readiness in the same manner as other early entrance students.

How do I apply for early entrance?

Visit your child's neighborhood school and ask for an 'Early Entrance Request' packet. Complete the packet and the parent questionnaire then submit them to your school's office anytime between February 1 and April 15. You will be contacted by a specialist to set up an appointment for an assessment and to schedule an observation at your child's pre-school. Requests received after April 15 for any given school year cannot be considered.

What are the assessment criteria?

The Student Success Team (SST) will review the submitted parent checklist, preschool teacher checklist, Bracken assessment scores, and preschool observational data on social, physical, and language development. These factors will be considered to determine if the applicant qualifies for early entry.

What happens next?

A team from the school will meet with you to review the findings. If your child meets criteria and there is consensus that early entrance is appropriate for your child, then you may register for school. Results of the assessment and determination will be made available to parents after June 15.

Is there a cost for the assessment?

There is a \$75.00 non-refundable assessment fee. The fee may be waived for families that can demonstrate financial hardship.

Can I appeal the decision of the screening team if my child is not accepted for early entrance?

No. Every effort is being made to ensure that the screening process is fair and equitable. Decisions on kindergarten/first grade readiness will be made by a team of professionals. The team's decision is final.

South Umpqua School District 19

Code: JEBA
Adopted: 10/18/17

Early Entrance**

A student is considered six years of age and will be admitted into a public school if his/her sixth birthday occurs on or before September 1. A student whose sixth birthday occurs after that date may be admitted to the first grade if he/she has maintained regular attendance in any grade of a public full-time school during the entire school term.

A student will be admitted to kindergarten if his/her fifth birthday occurs on or before September 1, or is a kindergarten student transferring from a public school in another district.

Early entry into school may be allowed for a student whose needs would best be met in the school program based on an analysis by qualified professional staff of his/her:

1. Cognitive development;
2. Social development;
3. Physical development.

The superintendent shall identify screening processes and instruments which will provide a dependable assessment of the preceding criteria.

Parents will be required to pay the cost of the special testing involved.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

ORS 327.006
ORS 336.092
ORS 336.095

ORS 339.010
ORS 339.115

ORS 343.395

South Umpqua School District
Application for Early Kindergarten Entrance

Must be submitted between February 1 – April 15 (Late requests cannot be considered)

Please complete this application if you feel that your child demonstrates academic achievement, social, emotional, and physical maturity appropriate for kindergarten placement, and should be considered for early placement in kindergarten and has a birth date that occurs between September 2 and October 1st. Please return completed forms to your school's office.

Home School: ____ Myrtle Creek Elem ____ Tri City Elem ____ Canyonville School

Child's Name _____ Birth Date ____ / ____ / ____

Gender: ____ Male ____ Female ____ Non-Binary

Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Preschool Experience:

List the preschools, Head Start, special education program, and/or other childcare programs attended. Include the dates of attendance and the approximate number of hours per week attended.

Name of School/Program	Dates of Attendance	#Hours/Week
_____	____ / ____ / ____ to ____ / ____ / ____	_____
_____	____ / ____ / ____ to ____ / ____ / ____	_____
_____	____ / ____ / ____ to ____ / ____ / ____	_____

Please initial that you have considered the following items when applying to early entry into kindergarten:

- ____ My child may be among the youngest in his/her class.
- ____ My child may be less physically mature than other students in the classroom. *(Physical maturation issues may become even more evident during adolescence when many children struggle with social and emotional issues.)*
- ____ My child may be at a real disadvantage if he or she is interested in competitive sports. Age cut off dates for different sports may put him/her in a different league than their classmates.
- ____ My child may be 16 or 17 when he/she graduates from high school and leaves home for further education.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

For Office Use Only:

Date Received ____ / ____ / ____ Received by: _____ Yes/No: \$75.00 Non-Refundable Fee Recieved

Request for Early Entry Kindergarten

Parent Checklist

This checklist will help in determining your child's readiness for kindergarten. Please read each statement and indicate your child's abilities by checking the appropriate column.

Physical Well-Being and Motor Development	Frequently	Sometimes	None of the Time
Performs self-help tasks independently (dressing, undressing, zipping, and tying)			
Uses eye/hand coordination to perform fine motor tasks (drawing, writing, and cutting)			
Uses balance and control to perform large motor tasks (walking, jumping, and skipping)			
Toileting: Consistently communicates the need to use the bathroom and able to use restroom without adult assistance			

Personal and Social Development	Frequently	Sometimes	None of the Time
Shows eagerness to learn (is curious, likes to investigate)			
Follows rules and routines (cleans up at play time)			
Handles change and transition (dinner time to bed time)			
Interacts easily with one or more children			

Language and Literacy	Frequently	Sometimes	None of the Time
Listens for meaning in stories, discussions, and conversations			
Speaks clearly to share ideas and thoughts			
Recognizes/names all upper/lower case letters			
Can read simple words			
Uses letters and words to write			
Writes name			

Mathematical Thinking	Frequently	Sometimes	None of the Time
Can recognize numbers 0-20			
Can orally count forward to 20			
Can recognize, duplicate, and extend simple patterns (circle-triangle, circle-triangle)			
Can recognize and describe attributes of shapes (color, size, shape)			

Scientific Thinking	Frequently	Sometimes	None of the Time
Identifies, describes, and compares properties of objects			
Describes characteristics and basic needs of living things (food, water, shelter)			

Social Studies	Frequently	Sometimes	None of the Time
Recognizes self and others as having same and different characteristics			
Describes roles and responsibilities of people (firefighters put out fires)			
Recognizes the reasons for rules			

The Arts	Frequently	Sometimes	None of the Time
Likes to paint and draw			
Likes to sing and dance			
Can share ideas about a drawing/painting			

Parent Questionnaire

Please answer each question below. If additional space is needed, please use the back of this form.

1. Why do you feel your child should be considered for early entrance to kindergarten?
2. How long does your child maintain interest in a play activity or game at a given time?
3. What responsibilities does your child have at home? What do you do when your child does not follow through?
4. How does your child respond when he/she tries but cannot do something?

5. What types of reading activities does your child engage in at home?
6. What kinds of experiences has your child had with writing tools, such as crayons, pencils, and markers?
7. What does your child know about numbers, shapes, and patterns?
8. How does your child handle transitions and new situations?
9. How does your child interact with other children? Does your child share, take turns, and cooperate with peers?