**FAQ - Information for Early Entrance to Kindergarten**

**Q: Who is eligible to enter kindergarten early?**

State and Tacoma Public Schools guidelines require that students entering Kindergarten in the fall must have turned five years of age on or before August 31st. However, a child whose birthdate falls on or between September 1st and October 31st may enter kindergarten if he or she meets entrance-screening requirements. Families must also reside within the Tacoma School District to be eligible for testing.

**Q: What kind of information is used to determine if my child is eligible for early entrance to kindergarten?**

Your child’s eligibility for early entrance to kindergarten will be based on readiness for kindergarten. The process involves an objective evaluation of your child’s beginning academic skills, language development, physical coordination, and social maturity.

To assure that your child will be more likely to have a great first year of school, he/she will be expected to meet standards at least six months above his/her age in all areas assessed.

Children meeting the entry standards will be recommended for a four-week trial period in kindergarten beginning at the start for the 2021-22 school year. Determination of final placement into kindergarten is the decision of the teacher and school principal.

**Q: What is the evaluation process for determining student eligibility for early entrance into kindergarten?**

**Step 1: Testing**

This testing process lasts approximately one hour and takes place at the Willard Early Learning Center, 3201 S. D St. Tacoma, WA 98418.

The purpose of the testing is to determine whether your child demonstrates the skills necessary to be successful in a kindergarten classroom setting.

Families will receive a letter indicating the outcome of the screening. There are two possible outcomes of the testing:

* The student did not demonstrate the needed readiness skills and is not eligible for further testing, or;
* The student did demonstrate the require readiness skills and is eligible for early entrance into kindergarten.

**The results are final**. If your child is eligible for early entrance to kindergarten, you will receive a letter of success and TPS Enrollment Services will be notified for placement. If your child is not eligible for early entrance, we may have preschool options available for your child.

**Step 2: Four-Week Trial Period**

Students eligible for early entrance who enroll in a kindergarten program are assigned a four-week trial period beginning at the start of the 2021-22 school year. After four weeks, your child’s kindergarten teacher and the building principal will review your child’s performance in the classroom to determine whether your child should continue in kindergarten. Determination of final placement into kindergarten is the decision of the school principal and your child’s kindergarten teacher.

**Q: What are the dates and times for this year’s individual testing?**

There will be 5 days of testing, June 10th-11th and 14th-16th, 2021. An additional week will be scheduled if necessary. These are one-hour appointments. You will receive only **ONE** appointment time, so plan to be sure that your child will be able to take advantage of the scheduled testing appointment. **Missed appointments will not be rescheduled.**

**Q: If found eligible to enter kindergarten early, how do I enroll my child?**

If your child is eligible for early entrance to kindergarten, the teacher will provide letter of success at the end of testing.

A copy of your child’s Early Entrance acceptance letter will be sent to the Tacoma School District Enrollment services office. They will contact you with enrollment information based on space availability.

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| **Application Requirement** | **Applications will be emailed to you at the time your appointment is scheduled.** |
| **Individual Testing** | **June 10th-11th and 14th-16th, 2021 by Appointment only**  **Missed appointments will not be rescheduled.** |
| **Four-week Trial Period** | **First four weeks of 2020-21 school year** |