

Early Entrance Regulations

First Grade

A student will be admitted into the first grade if his/her sixth birthday occurs on or before September 1st, as established by law. In addition, a student whose sixth birthday occurs after that date may be admitted to the first grade if he/she:

- Is a first grade student transferring from a public school or private school in another district; or
- Completed a successful year in a public kindergarten the previous year and would be continuing his/her formal education.

Kindergarten

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

Early entry into school may be allowed for a student whose fifth birthday occurs after September 1st through the challenge process. This process requires documentation that the student is sufficiently advanced in intellectual functioning, social/emotional functioning, and psychomotor development to succeed in their educational program. The following guidelines will be used:

1. A student attaining age six on or before September 1 qualifies for first grade, and a student attaining age five on or before September 1 qualifies for kindergarten. Students who turn age six/five after September 1 may be considered for early entry;
2. The Request for Early First-Grade/Kindergarten Entrance form must be filled out by a parent or guardian with supporting paperwork. The completion of these forms and receipt of formal evaluation results will activate the early entrance committee. The documentation must include a written confirmation of a successful pre-school experience (for kindergarten early entrance challenges) and an assessment score ranking the student at or above the 90th percentile for the appropriate age group on the district administered tests. The confirmation should include an evaluation and reason for recommending early entry. Members of the committee may include the Special Programs Director, building principals, teachers, school psychologist, and speech and language therapist;
3. The parents or guardians will be made aware that it is their responsibility to secure testing by a qualified agency or person approved by the district/director of special services. Parents will be required to pay the cost of the special testing involved. The instruments used are to include valid and reliable measures of assessment in the following four areas;
 - a. Cognitive (intelligence)
 - b. Affective (social/emotional)
 - c. Psychomotor (fine and gross motor)
 - d. Academic Testing

4. Criteria for determining sufficient maturity will be scores at the 95th percentile across all four noted areas;
5. All information must be received by the special programs director on or before August 15th ;
6. The early entry committee will review the test information and other supporting documentation;
7. The screening committee will make recommendations to the superintendent and/or designee, and parents will be notified within two weeks of the completed request;
8. A written appeal can be made by the parents to the superintendent who may affirm, reverse or modify the early entry committee's decision. A subsequent hearing may be held with the Board if the respective decision does not meet the approval of the parent.

District approved evaluators:

1. Sue Menen Jessing, PsyD- Junction City School Psychologist (541) 505-6160
2. Jen Burt- South Lane School Psychologist (lives in Eugene) (541) 228-8679
3. Erik Sorensen, Ph.D.(Clinical Psychologist in Eugene who also does psych evaluations) (541) 345-8749
4. Kelly Murray, Ph.D. (Clinical Psychologist in Eugene who also does psych evaluations), (541) 897-7070

**JUNCTION CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
REQUEST FOR EARLY KINDERGARTEN/FIRST GRADE ENTRANCE**

Date _____

Child's Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Parent's Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

I request that my child be reviewed for early admission to kindergarten/first grade.

I request that my child attend _____ Elementary School.

I agree to have _____ evaluated in the following areas:

- a. cognitive (intelligence)
- b. affective (socio/emotional)
- c. psychomotor/fine and gross motor
- d. academic readiness skills

I understand that the evaluation must be conducted by a district approved evaluator at my own expense.

I understand the test scores must equal or surpass the 95th percentile in all areas of assessment to be considered for early entry. Assessment needs to be completed by August 15th. I will receive written information from the school district concerning my request within two weeks of providing them with the test scores.

Parent Signature

Date

** As used in this policy, the term parent includes legal guardian or person in a parental relationship. The status and duties of a legal guardian are defined in ORS 126.003 – 126.095. The determination of whether an individual is acting in a parental relationship, for purposes of determining residence, depends on the evaluation of the factors listed in Policy P5170.2. The determination for other purposes depends on evaluation of those factors and power of attorney executed pursuant to ORS 126.030.

*** **Return this form and all supporting documentation (written evidence of successful pre-school experience) prior to AUGUST 15th to:**

**Katie Bradford, Special Programs Director
Junction City School District
325 Maple Street
Junction City, OR 97448
541-998-6311, ext. 621**