



SUNSET RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT 29

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Cultivating an inclusive learning community that engages hearts and minds one child at a time.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

EARLY ENTRANCE INTO KINDERGARTEN OR 1ST GRADE

Sunset Ridge School District 29 has identified early entrance to kindergarten and/or 1st grade as whole-grade acceleration, appropriate for those students who are intellectually and socially advanced. District 29 is responsible for determining whether a child is appropriate for early entrance, and the school district will complete all necessary assessments. Based upon the data collected, the District will make a determination if the student is ready for early entrance to Kindergarten or 1st grade and will provide notice to parents regarding its decision. The District's decision is final.

To be considered for early entrance, students must demonstrate advanced characteristics in cognitive, academic and social-emotional domains. District 29 utilizes a systematic process that involves review of records, observation, interview, and testing.

Criteria for Early Entrance Consideration

To be eligible for consideration for **early entrance to Kindergarten**, the child must:

- Turn five years old by October 31st of the school year for which they are seeking entrance.

To be eligible for consideration for **early entrance to First Grade**, the child must:

- Turn six years old by December 31st of the school year for which they are seeking entrance.
- Have completed one year of kindergarten taught by a licensed teacher.
- Received a recommendation for a 1st grade placement from their kindergarten teacher.

Parents/guardians wishing to apply for early entrance for their child must complete the following initial steps:

- Contact the Middlefork School Principal.
- Complete and submit the **Early Entrance Into Kindergarten/First Grade Request Form** **no later than March 31** of the school year prior to the year in which the early entrance is sought.
- Provide a copy of the student's birth certificate.
- Verify the student's residency according to District 29 residency requirements,
- Provide a copy of the student's report card or other rating document from the current school.
- Sign a **Release of Information Form** to allow District 29 to communicate with the school where the child attended Kindergarten.,
- Submit **ALL** of the above documents to the Middlefork School Principal by April 15 of the school year prior to the school year for which early entrance is sought.

Early Entrance Assessment and Decision-Making Process

Step 1: Pre-Screening

Based on a review of the information provided above, District 29 will determine if the child should participate in a formal evaluation process (delineated below) to determine eligibility for early entrance.

Step 2: Academic Assessment

1. District 29 will administer a screening of academic skills in reading and mathematics. The child must score above the 90th percentile in all areas assessed, for the grade level for which early entrance is sought to proceed to Step 3 below. District 29 does not accept private evaluations for Early Entrance decisions.
2. District 29 will administer a language screener to determine English proficiency for students who speak a second language or who have a second language present in the home.

Step 3: Intellectual/Cognitive Assessment

1. District 29 will administer an individual assessment of intellectual ability. The child must obtain an overall Full Scale IQ Score of 130 or higher to proceed to Step 4 below. District 29 does not accept private evaluations for Early Entrance decisions.

Step 4: Social Emotional Assessment

1. District 29 will administer a standardized social emotional assessment. The child must obtain a score above the 90% percentile in all areas assessed, for the grade level for which early entrance is sought. District 29 does not accept private evaluations for Early Entrance decisions.

All decisions regarding early entrance will involve multiple individuals inclusive of parents, teachers, evaluators, and administrators. Processes will be fair and equitable and based upon quantitative and qualitative data that has been collected for determination of appropriateness of early entrance or acceleration.

Parents/guardians will be notified in writing throughout the process of determining eligibility for early entrance or acceleration. This notification process will include the following as needed for each request:

- *Initial notification that a request for early entrance or acceleration has been received and referral determination.*
- *Within ten school days after receiving referral, written notification regarding whether assessment for acceleration is warranted will be communicated to parents/guardians. This includes a written outline regarding timeline for completion of assessment when determination to assess has been made and written consent has been obtained.*
- *Notification of a meeting in which assessment results will be discussed and shared with parents.*
- *Notification regarding the decision whether the student is eligible for early entrance or acceleration which includes processes to appeal the eligibility determination.*

ISBE Information:

https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Accelerated_Placement_Act_Guidance.pdf