

## **Qualifications of Attendance and Placement**

### **Early Entrance to Kindergarten Exception**

The general philosophy of the Lynden School District is that most children are more successful with their peers of the same age and discourages early entrance except in rare cases. If, during conversations with the parent/guardian, there are indications that the child is not significantly advanced in all areas, the parent should be discouraged from further assessment. Careful consideration should be given to the child's background, including preschool or other situations where the child has had an opportunity to interact with and relate to other children their same age or older.

General guidelines for early entrance that accurately predict success include:

1. Strong or superior rating on development screenings and assessments
2. Age within four weeks of August 31<sup>st</sup> cut-off date, with a birthday on or before September 30<sup>th</sup>.
3. Skills and development appropriate for kindergarten.
4. Prediction that the student will perform near the top of the proposed class and will continue to perform at that level throughout his or her schooling.
5. Prior experience and age level performance in a preschool program or setting is highly recommended.

### **Application/Assessment Process**

1. Applications for early entrance for children living within the Lynden School District will be accepted through May 1<sup>st</sup> of the desired entry year. Complete application must include:
  - a. Proof of Lynden School District permanent residency and a copy of the child's birth certificate indicating birth between September 1 and September 30.
  - b. The application for early entrance to kindergarten form, which will permission to evaluate.
  - c. A developmental questionnaire to be completed by the parent/guardian regarding the child.
  - d. A preschool questionnaire to be completed by the preschool teacher if the child has had prior experience.
  - e. Other information that is relevant and will assist the Early Entrance to Kindergarten team in determining a child's developmental level.

The application packet can be obtained from the district website, at the district office, or at any of the Lynden elementary schools.

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2. An early entrance assessment is required. This assessment will include, but not be limited to, seven areas: (1) problem solving and reasoning ability, (2) gross-motor skills, (3) fine-motor skills, (4) development of basic pre-academic readiness skills, (5) daily living skills and independent behavior, (6) social/emotional development, and (7) language development. It may also include an informal classroom observation.
  3. The district reserves the right to annually establish a fee to pay for the cost of the assessments noted above. Parents for whom the cost of an assessment would cause undue hardship may request exemption or reduction from fees. These requests will be considered based on submission of a "Free and Reduced Meals" application and qualifying for free or reduced meals.
  4. Parents must contact the Department of Teaching & Learning to make an appointment for the assessment.
  5. The assessment is conducted by the Early Entrance to Kindergarten Team. The assessment team will include a school psychologist, a preschool or kindergarten teacher or the district administrator or designee, and at least one additional member of a multidisciplinary team.
  6. The Early Entrance to Kindergarten team will review the application and assessment results and come to a decision in regard to a child's need and/or ability to enter kindergarten early. The student must meet and receive a recommendation from the Early Entrance to Kindergarten team. A decision will be mailed within 10 workdays following the review by the Early Entrance to Kindergarten Team.

#### **Admission of Students Aged Twenty-One or Older**

A student aged 21 or older may enroll in a school in the district under the following conditions:

1. There is available space in the school and program which the student shall attend;
2. Tuition is prepaid;
3. The student provides his/her own transportation;
4. The student resides in the State of Washington;
5. In the judgement of the superintendent, no adult education program is available at reasonable costs and the district's program is appropriate to the needs of the student.

#### **Placement of Students on Admission**

The decision of where to place a student seeking admission to the district rests with the principal. Generally, students meeting the age of admission requirements or transferring from a public or approved private school shall be placed in kindergarten or first grade, or the grade from which they transferred. The principal shall evaluate the educational record and assessments of all other students to determine their appropriate placement. A temporary classroom assignment may be made for no more than thirty calendar days for the purpose of evaluation prior to making the final placement decision.