

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. What is District 145's early entrance policy?

A. District 145 policy states that children must turn five years old by September 1st of their Kindergarten year for admission to Kindergarten or six years old by September 1st of their first-grade year to be admitted to first grade. Freeport School District 145 may consider early entrance if children meet the criteria established by the District's early entrance policy.

Q. How many children are eligible for early entrance each year?

A. There is no set number. Decisions are made on an individual basis.

Q. If I put my child in private Kindergarten, will she automatically be eligible for first grade the following year?

A. No. To be considered for early entrance to first grade, children who are not six years old by September 1st are required to successfully pass the final Kindergarten proficiency assessments.

Q. Who makes the decision about whether my child can enter Kindergarten early?

A. The school principal and a Freeport School District psychologist will make the decision, taking into consideration test results, and the child's performance during an observation period. This joint principal and psychologist decision is final.

Q. Who should I contact about having my child screened for early entrance?

A. The parent or guardian initially contacts the principal of the District 145 school the student will attend. A meeting is then held with the principal and the school psychologist. This meeting must take place before April 1st for consideration in the coming school year.

Provisional Kindergarten Placement

1. If the student meets the criteria for early entrance, then the student will be placed in Kindergarten on a provisional basis for a period of time, not to exceed 30 days.
2. If it is observed that the student may not be ready for Kindergarten, then an additional assessment may be administered.
3. The principal will convene a meeting. Participants will include the parent(s), the student's teacher, the principal, and other invited individuals who may contribute relevant information and/or expertise regarding the student. At this meeting, the participants will consider the student's general performance, their social, emotional, and physical maturity, academic skills, peer relationships and other related factors.
4. Based on the information provided by the participants of the meeting, the recommendation may be made that the student is, or is not ready for Kindergarten. In the event the participants cannot reach a consensus, the building principal retains the authority and the responsibility to make the final decision.

Non-discriminated Notice

The Freeport School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in admission to, access to; or treatment of employment in its programs and activities.

The following person has been designated to coordinate compliance with IDEA and Section 504 the 1973 Rehabilitation Act. Inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies shall be directed to:

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Early Entrance To Kindergarten

Early Entrance Information

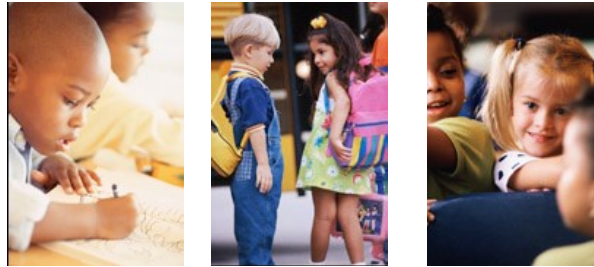
District 145 follows Illinois School Code which specifies that to enter Kindergarten, children must be five years of age by September 1st of their Kindergarten year.

Occasionally, exceptions to both of these policies may be made for children whose potential and skills are in the very superior range. District 145 has specific criteria and procedures for considering requests for early entrance.

The decision for a child to enter school early can have a profound effect on his or her academic and social performance for the remainder of the child's school career. It is a decision that needs to be taken very seriously.

Research indicates that early entrance and/or early reading ability is not a predictor of success in school. In fact, children with strong early reading skills often plateau by third grade. Children who enter Kindergarten or first grade early may demonstrate social or emotional difficulties due to their relative immaturity. As they progress through school, children who are young for their grade level may have more difficulty fitting in with their peers in social situations. They are less likely to excel in sports because of their age and/or their smaller size. These and other possible effects of being younger than others in their classes should be considered carefully.

District 145 screens between 8 and 10 children each year, but typically only one or two are found eligible to enter Kindergarten or first grade early.



CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY

District 145 has developed standard criteria and procedures to allow for careful consideration of parents' requests for early entrance to Kindergarten and first grade. The criteria for early entrance are:

- The child's fifth birthday falls between September 2nd and October 31st, as documented by a certified copy of the birth certificate.
- The child demonstrates attention, gross and fine motor skills, cooperative play, and expressive and receptive language skills in the very superior range as demonstrated during a group observation session at preschool screening.

PROCEDURES

1. Between March 1st and April 15th, parents meet with the principal of the school the child will attend and the school psychologist to discuss the child's early entrance potential.
2. Following this discussion, if parents wish to continue the process, they will be given two forms to complete:
 - 1) Application for Early Entrance to Kindergarten
 - 2) Child Information Sheet
3. Parents return the completed forms to the principal by April 15th with a certified copy of the child's birth certificate,
4. The observation and testing will be completed by June 1st. Most observations will take place in the students' existing preschool settings.
5. Following the observation and testing, parents are invited to a feedback conference. The principal provides information regarding the child's performance during the observation, reviews test results, and give parents a written summary of the screening.
6. The final decision about early entrance eligibility will be made jointly by the school psychologist and the building principal.

MOVE-INS AFTER MAY 1

Individual consideration will be given after a review of the Child Information Sheet by the principal and school psychologist. A consultation with a District 145 psychologist may be recommended.