



McHenry School District 15 Early Entrance to Kindergarten



Information & Procedures

Early Entrance Information

Children enrolling in kindergarten at McHenry School District 15 must be 5 years of age by September 1 of the year they are entering kindergarten, as dictated by Illinois School Code.

However, District 15 recognizes that in select cases children who demonstrate skills and maturity significantly higher than an average kindergarten student may benefit from beginning kindergarten before the typical age of 5.

To accommodate these students, the District has outlined specific eligibility guidelines and procedures to consider requests for early enrollment to the kindergarten program.

McHenry District 15 typically screens a small number of students for potential early entrance each year with only a small number of these screened qualifying, because even children who meet all the prescribed criteria potentially face challenges stemming from their relative physical, social, or emotional immaturity.

Eligibility Criteria

McHenry District 15 has developed a set of standard criteria for eligibility to help ensure that students being considered for early entrance will be positioned for success.

Age / Birth Date:

- The student must be 5 on or before November 1st of the academic year they are asking for early entrance.

Physical and Social-Emotional Skills

- Demonstrates attention, gross motor, and fine motor skills
- Demonstrates aptitude in cooperative play, expressive and receptive language skills
- All aptitude areas must fall in the very superior range

Process

1. Parent will fill out the Early Entrance Parent Form for their student by April 1st.
2. Preschool teacher will fill out a teacher form by April 1st.
3. District 15 team will review the information.
4. District 15 team will either deny the request based on their review or request for further assessment.
5. The District will then conduct recommended assessments to make the final determination and grant approval or denial.
6. The District 15 team will issue the final decision.