

Early Admission to Kindergarten or First Grade

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for your interest in early admission to kindergarten for your student. **Steger School District 194 follows Illinois School Code, which specifies that to enter kindergarten children must be five years of age by September 1 of their kindergarten year.**

Exceptions to this policy may be made for children whose potential and skills are in the superior range. District 194 has specific criteria and procedures for considering parent 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.

The following criteria for early admission established by District 194 are rigorous. The goal is to ensure that children are not frustrated by the challenges of the instructional programs and any negative effects that early placement might have.

Criteria:

- Proof of residency according to current district policies
- Kindergarten: The child's fifth birthday falls between September 2 and November 9 (of the current calendar year) as documented by a certified copy of the child's birth certificate.
- First Grade: The child's sixth birthday falls between September 2 and November 9 (of the current calendar year) as documented by a certified copy of the child's birth certificate.
- The child demonstrates attention, gross and fine motor skills, cooperative play, social and emotional skills, and expressive and receptive language skills in the superior range.
- The child attains required minimum scores on an intelligence test, academic achievement assessment and an interview/other assessments administered by District 194. The procedures for early admission established by District 194 are very specific and must be adhered to by all parents requesting early admission.

The procedures for early admission established by District 194 are very specific, and must be adhered to by all parents requesting early admission.

Requesting Early Admission to Kindergarten or First Grade: Procedures

Step 1. Letter of Request: Applications are only accepted between February 1 and April 15.

To begin the process, parents have two options:

Option 1: Submit this Google Form: [Early Admission Parent Request Form](#)

Option 2: Submit a letter indicating the reasons why early admission to kindergarten or 1st grade is being requested, the Parent Request Form, and the Parent Interview Questionnaire to Steger Primary Center, Attn: Ms. Alma Solis

Step 2: Review of Request: If all forms are completed/submitted by the deadline, the district team will review all documents and determine whether the request for early admission is warranted.

Step 3: Cognitive Assessment: If the team determines that a cognitive assessment is warranted, it will be scheduled and will be given at Steger Primary Center, 3341 Miller Ave., South Chicago Heights, IL 60411. Testing time is approximately 60 minutes; results from the cognitive assessment will be analyzed by the district team.

Step 4: Assessment: A student scoring 120 or higher on a cognitive assessment will be scheduled for a student interview and academic achievement assessment. Certified staff will oversee the interview and will give the required assessment. These will take place at Steger Primary Center, 3341 Miller Ave., South Chicago Heights, IL 60411. Testing time is approximately 1 hour; results will be analyzed by the district team.

Step 5. Final Determination: After the necessary data has been analyzed, the decision whether or not to approve early admission will be made by the district team. If the request is approved, the principal will inform the parents in writing, indicating how to proceed to enroll their child. If the request is not approved, the principal will inform the parents in writing to explain the reasons why their child is not eligible for early admission. A parent reserves the right to dispute the decision and to file an appeal with the Superintendent.

Children who are approved for early admission will be enrolled on a probationary basis. The school staff will assess the child's initial adjustment to school during the first 20 school days. If it is determined that the child's adjustment is satisfactory, the child may continue enrollment.

If a child's adjustment is not satisfactory, the district team will notify the parents. At this time, the child may be withdrawn, and the district will follow Illinois School Code regarding enrollment into Kindergarten or 1st Grade.

Please contact the Steger Primary Center at 708-753-4100 with any questions you have about the early entrance process.

Early Admission to Kindergarten or First Grade-Parent Request Form

Request for Early Admission to: _____ Kindergarten _____ 1st Grade

Child's Name _____ Today's Date: _____

Child's Date of Birth _____

Address _____

Parent/Guardian's Name _____

Parent's Phone # _____

Parent's Email Address _____

Did the child attend Pre-school? _____ yes _____ no

If yes: Name of Pre-school/Kindergarten Program attended _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Teacher _____

Month/Year enrolled _____

Number of Days per Week _____ Number of Hours per Day _____

I give my consent to Steger School District 194 to administer the following assessments and procedures to determine my child's eligibility for early admission into Kindergarten or 1st Grade:

- Cognitive Assessment (must score 120 or higher)
- Academic Achievement Assessment (must score 130 or higher)
- To allow my child to be interviewed by the District Psychologist/Social Worker and a Kindergarten teacher.

I am aware that these early admission procedures exceed State of IL requirements, and that the final decision for early admission may be denied.

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____

Date _____

Early Admission to Kindergarten Parent Interview Questionnaire

Child's Name _____ Date of Interview _____

Parent Name _____ Signature _____

Check the response that best applies. Please make any comments that you feel are relevant on the comment lines.

1. What is the student's attitude toward learning?

_____ Disinterested and/or frustrated when presented with new challenges

_____ Student completes assignments/tasks inconsistently

_____ Student is receptive to and enthusiastic about new academic challenges

_____ Student actively seeks and persists in new and rigorous academic challenges

2. Emotional Development

_____ Student has difficulty separating from parent(s)

_____ Student becomes easily frustrated when presented with a challenge

_____ Student thoughtfully considers feedback and criticism and modifies behavior appropriately

3. Behavior

_____ Student has a history of frequent discipline problems in the classroom or home

_____ Student has occasional discipline problems

_____ Student has no history of discipline problems, but is not exemplary

_____ Student's behavior is exceptionally positive and effective

4. Relationship with Peers

_____ Student has extremely poor interpersonal skills

_____ Student's interpersonal skills are not as well developed as age mates

_____ Student's interpersonal skills are appropriate for age

_____ Student demonstrates good interpersonal skills and prefers to be with older children and/or adults rather than age mates

_____ Student has good interpersonal skills with age mates, as well as with students both older and younger and with adults

5. Motivation

____ Student does not complete assignments and appears disinterested in schoolwork

____ Student completes those tasks that are of interest to him or her

____ Student completes virtually all assignments on time and shows a positive attitude

____ Student completes most assignments more quickly and more comprehensively than other classmates

6. Academic Self-Concept

____ Student's academic self-concept is weak (under estimates abilities)

____ Student's academic self-concept is inflated (over-estimates abilities)

____ Student's academic self-concept is positive and realistic