

HIGHER GROUND ACADEMY

Early Entrance to Kindergarten Policy

Adopted: 10/20/2015

Revised: 02/17/2026

PURPOSE

- 1.1. The purpose of this policy is to explicate the school's requirements when considering a child for early entrance to kindergarten.

CRITERIA FOR EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN (EEK)

- 2.1. Children will be considered eligible for EEK if they turn four years old on or before the first day of the school year.
- 2.2. Children must demonstrate academic skills above average when compared to the skills of the majority of entering kindergarteners. Children will take the FastBridge Early Reading and Early Math test that is administered to Kindergarten students at the beginning of the year, and the school will determine if the children are ready for kindergarten based on their results.
- 2.3. Children must demonstrate socialization and behavior skills more advanced than the majority of entering kindergarteners, based upon results of a normative behavior rating scale, parent report, and kindergarten teacher observations made during a simulated kindergarten experience. Students must perform at this high level in all critical areas:
 - 2.4.1. Ability to separate easily from parent;
 - 2.4.2. Ability to focus attention for appropriate amount of time during learning tasks;
 - 2.4.3. Ability to complete tasks in reasonable amount of time;
 - 2.4.4. Ability to transition easily from task to task;
 - 2.4.5. Willingness to participate, share, and cooperate in groups;
 - 2.4.6. Relative ease in socializing with peers;
 - 2.4.7. Ability to verbalize easily with teacher and peers;
 - 2.4.8. Decent fine motor skills for drawing and cutting tasks.
 - 2.4.8 Toilet trained.

2.4 PROCEDURES

- 2.4.1. Kindergarten student enrollment will begin during the spring semester.
- 2.4.2. A completed application must be turned in to the office before the last school in May to be considered for placement. After a student's application has been selected, parents must complete the enrollment packet. HGA may request documentation that verifies a pupil falls within the school's minimum and maximum age requirements for admission. Documentation may include a passport, a hospital birth record or physician's certificate, a baptismal or religious certificate, an adoption record, health records, immunization records, immigration records, previously verified school records, early childhood screening records, Minnesota Immunization Information Connection records, or an affidavit from a parent
- 2.4.3. Siblings of currently enrolled students and the children of staff members will be given first priority.
- 2.4.4. A lottery will occur to fill the remaining available placements until each class reaches its maximum capacity.
- 2.4.5. Applicants must complete a Home Language Questionnaire, which is included in the application and is used to determine English Language Learner services.

DECISION MAKING

- 2.5.1. The determination for eligibility for early entrance to kindergarten is made by a consensus decision of the assessment team. This determination is considered final. Results and the final determination will be shared with the parents and administration through a written report;
- 2.5.2. If accepted for early entrance, students may then enroll for kindergarten with the district's admissions contact person.

FOLLOW-UP

- 2.6.1. Annually, data will be gathered on all Early Entrants to Kindergarten to determine if the students are academically successful in their advanced placement. This data will help assess the effectiveness of the Early Entrance process.