

Early Entrance to Kindergarten and First Grade

Tremont School District 702 follows Illinois School Code, which specifies that to enter Kindergarten, children must be five years old by September 1 of their eligible kindergarten year and six years old by September 1 of their eligible first grade year. On the rare occasion, exceptions to both of these policies may be made for children whose potential and skills are in the highly exceeding range.

District 702 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 we do not take lightly.

Since the district takes the decision for a child to enter early very seriously, the criteria for early entrance are very rigorous. The goal is to ensure that children are not frustrated by the challenges of the instructional programs and the long term effects that early placement may have.

Criteria for Eligibility:

Kindergarten	First Grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The child's birthday falls between September 2 and October 31, 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 at the 95th percentile or above for each area on the kindergarten screening tool.• The child attains a score of 130 or above on an intelligence test administered by District 702 personnel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The child's sixth birthday falls between September 2 and December 31, as documented by a certified copy of the birth certificate.• The child has attended preschool and/or kindergarten at a private school, which was taught by an appropriately certified teacher.• The child attains a score of 130 or above on an intelligence test administered by District 702 personnel.

Requesting Early Entrance to Kindergarten and First Grade

- Between February 1 and April 30, parents meet with the school administration and school psychologist to discuss the potential for early entrance.
- Following the discussion, if parents wish to continue this process, they will be given the required forms for completion.
- Completed forms and a certified copy of the child's birth certificate must be provided to the principal by May 1. No late forms will be accepted.
- If the child is entering kindergarten, parents may make an appointment during regular Kindergarten screening for their child. Results of the kindergarten screening will determine whether or not the early entrance screening should continue at a later date.
- If it is determined that the screening process should continue, an individual session with the school psychologist will be made. At this time, an IQ test will be administered.
- After all screening and testing occurs, a conference with parents, teacher representative, the school psychologist, and principal will be held. Members of the early entrance team will provide information regarding the child's performance during the screenings and review test results. Parents will be provided with a written summary of all reports.
- The early entrance team will make the decision regarding the child's eligibility of early entrance. This decision is final.
- Children who are accepted for early entrance will be enrolled on a probationary basis. The school staff will assess each child's initial adjustment to school during the first twenty days. If the adjustment is not satisfactory, the principal will request that the child enroll when the child meets grade level guidelines. If it is determined the child's adjustment is satisfactory, the child may continue enrollment in the early entrance program.