



## Nippersink District 2 Board of Education



---

The mission of Nippersink District 2 is to foster academic growth, instill integrity, confidence, and civic responsibility while preparing all students for an ever-changing global society.

### **Early Entrance to Kindergarten and/or First Grade and Whole Grade Acceleration**

**Early entrance to kindergarten** is the admission to kindergarten of a student who: (a) will not be five years old of age on or before September 1 of that school term, but will obtain the age of five on or before December 31; and (b) is admitted prior to the dates established in the School Code based upon assessments of his or her readiness to attend school.

**Early entrance to first grade** is the admission to first grade of a student who: (a) is assessed for readiness, attended a nonpublic preschool and continued his or her education at that school through kindergarten, was taught in kindergarten by an appropriately certified teacher, and will attain the age of six years on or before December 31; and (b) is admitted prior to the dates established in the School Code based upon assessments of his or her readiness to attend school.

### **Process**

Family completes the online enrollment application and provides proof of residency. [New to District Enrollment](#). After the online enrollment is complete and verified, the family will complete an application for early entrance, please see [Application for Early Entrance](#). The application for early entrance must be completed between January 1 and May 15 of the school year. Completing the online enrollment and application for early entrance does not mean acceptance. Fees will only be added if the student is admitted for early entrance. The application for early entrance must include:

1. A written request for early admission stating the reasons for considering early admission for the child
2. A letter of recommendation from a previous teacher, mentor or coach (if the student was homeschooled, then a parent or instructional provider may provide the letter)
3. Examples of reading, writing, math, problem-solving and creative abilities

\*If any of the required materials are not included, the application for early entrance will be denied.

Upon receipt of the application for early entrance and a review of the application materials, the family will be notified of the next steps (screening and testing) or denial of application (if applicable).

- Evaluations will take place between the last day of school and July 1 at Richmond Grade School.
- There is a non-refundable, \$200 fee for screening and testing which will be charged to parents prior to testing.

The next step of the early admission process is conducting an identification assessment, which includes:

- School readiness, social behavior and motivation data; and
- Achievement tests for reading, writing and mathematics; or
- Aptitude test

### **Early Entrance Criteria - Kindergarten**

#### **Baseline Criteria - Level 1 (All testing to be administered by Nippersink School District)**

- Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning - (DIAL) Assessment
  - Gross and fine motor skills at 90th percentile
  - Concepts and language skills at 90th percentile
  - If a student scores in the 90th percentile they will move to Level 2

If a student does not meet the criteria in Level 1, the determination team will send notification to parent(s)/guardians that the student is not a candidate for early admission.

#### **Further Evaluation - Level 2**

- Curriculum-Based Assessment of Readiness
  - Aptitude - ~~i-Ready~~ IXL assessments math and reading. A student needs to score at the mid or above grade-level and at or above the 90th percentile at the “End-of-Year” kindergarten grade benchmark in literacy fluency and comprehension, writing and mathematics computation and concepts. Students who score early on grade level or below on any of the reading and math domains will not be considered for early entrance.

Upon successful completion of Level 2 components the process moves to level 3

### Level 3

- There will be a team meeting to review the student's results and qualifications for early entrance.
  - Team members will include the school psychologist, school social worker, District and building administration, teacher(s), and family members.

## **Early Entrance Criteria - First Grade**

- Baseline Criteria - Level 1
  - Curriculum-Based Assessment of Readiness
    - 1a. Aptitude - ~~i-Ready~~ IXL assessments math and reading. A student needs to score at the mid or above grade-level and at or above the 90th percentile at the "End-of-Year" first grade benchmark in literacy fluency and comprehension, writing and mathematics computation and concepts. Students who score early on grade level or below on any of the reading and math domains will not be considered for early entrance.

If a student does not meet the criteria in 1a, they will not move to 1b.

- 1b. Observation of student in the age-appropriate setting by a trained Nippersink School District 2 staff who is a time on task observation inventory (to be conducted prior to the end of the current school year)

If a student does not meet the criteria in Level 1, the determination team will send notification to parent(s)/guardians that the student is not a candidate for grade acceleration.

- Further Evaluation - Level 2
  - Completion of the individual assessment protocols for ability and aptitude:
    - Ability - Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAt) scored - At or above 90th percentile

Upon successful completion of Level 2 components the process moves to level 3

### Level 3

- There will be a team meeting to review the student results and qualifications for early entrance.
  - Team members will include the school psychologist, school social worker, District and building administration, teacher(s), and family members.

### **Decision-Making and Family Notification**

A determination letter will be sent to the family and forwarded to the receiving teacher and principal.

Parents/guardians may accept or decline the offer of early admission. When a child is deemed appropriate for early admission, an Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) shall be developed by the end of the first month following the start of the school year or September 30, whichever comes first. The ALP shall include academic and transition goals, and must state that the student was enrolled through early admission for the years he/she is in kindergarten (if applicable) and first grade so that state auditing requirements are met.

## **Whole grade acceleration, “grade skip” for grades 2 - 8**

- Baseline Criteria - Level 1
  - Curriculum-Based Assessment of Readiness
    - 1a. Aptitude - ~~i-Ready~~ IXL assessments math and reading. A student needs to score at the mid or above grade-level and at or above the 90th percentile at the “End-of-Year” grade benchmark in literacy fluency and comprehension, writing and mathematics computation and concepts. Students who score early on grade level or below on any of the reading and math domains will not be considered for early entrance.

If a student does not meet the criteria in 1a, they will not move to 1b and 1c.

- 1b. Observation of student in the age-appropriate setting by a trained Nippersink School District 2 staff who is using a time on task observation inventory (to be conducted prior to the end of the current school year)
- 1c. Submission of the portfolio from current setting by family

- Further Evaluation - Level 2
  - Completion of the individual assessment protocols for ability and aptitude:
    - Ability - Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) and (Grade-Level Equivalent End of Year Rank) = At or above 90th percentile
    - After the Level 2 components have been completed, there will be a team meeting to review the student results and qualifications for early entrance.
  - Team members will include the school psychologist, school social worker, district and building administration, early admissions team, and family members.

### **Decision-Making and Family Notification**

A determination letter will be signed by all members of the determination team and mailed to the family.

Parents/guardians may accept or decline the offer of grade acceleration. When a child is deemed appropriate for early admission, an Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) shall be developed according to the district's procedures by the end of the first month following the start of the school year or September 30, whichever comes first. The ALP shall include academic and transition goals, and must state that the student was enrolled through early admission for the years he/she is in kindergarten (if applicable) and first grade so that state auditing requirements are met.