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Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools Early Entrance to Kindergarten Procedure

In Minnesota, children are required to be five years old on or before September 1 to enter kindergarten. It is recognized that some children may have exceptional skills and are ready to begin their formal education before they reach that age. Minnesota law also provides local school districts some flexibility in determining procedures for early entrance to kindergarten. In the Sauk Rapids-Rice School District entry to kindergarten will be considered for prospective students who will achieve the age of five years on or before October 31 of their entry year.

Early entrance is a big decision for most families. The early entrance option is intended for children with fall birthdays who have demonstrated a readiness to be successful as grade-accelerated students throughout their entire K-12 schooling experience. Since your child's school success is extremely important to us, we encourage careful consideration of both the benefits and disadvantages of the early entrance option. The Sauk Rapids-Rice School District believes in excellence and wants children to thrive in school experiences so they can achieve their full potential.

To be eligible for early entrance to kindergarten, children must demonstrate academic, socialization, and behavioral skills above average when compared to the skills of the majority of entering kindergarteners. The expectations for early entrance are set high to ensure that students are able to be successful. Please read through the characteristics below in order to decide if your child is ready for early entrance to kindergarten.

My child:

- Regulates emotions and behavior
- Works cooperatively with other students
- Shows motivation to learn and go to school
- Can maintain focus when completing a task
- Likes books and being read to
- Asks and answers questions in order to seek help, get information or clarify information
- Recognizes upper and lower case letters and sounds
- Holds scissors correctly
- Cuts straight and curved lines with some skill
- Holds pencil, crayon and markers correctly
- Knows numbers 0-10 in any order
- Counts to 20 or higher
- Adds and subtracts with manipulatives
- Knows basic shapes (circle, square, triangle, etc.)
- Names colors





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Students can be referred for early entrance to kindergarten by any source, but typically parent(s)/guardian(s) make the recommendation. Parent(s)/guardian(s) considering the early entrance of a child must complete the following steps and return the required documents **on or before March 15**.

Early Entrance to Kindergarten Procedure

1. Paper applications may be requested by email or phone by contacting the Early Entrance Coordinator, Irene Wilcox, at 320-258-1272 or irene.wilcox@isd47.org. Forms are also available at www.isd47.org. Assistance with materials and language translation is available upon request. Please contact Jenny Bushman, Director of Teaching and Learning, at 320-253-4703 for more information.

2. Parents/guardians must submit the following documents on or before **March 15**:

- a. Early Entrance to Kindergarten Application (pg 4-9)
- b. Early Entrance to Kindergarten Preschool Questionnaire.

3. Email, fax, or mail application materials to:

Irene Wilcox, Early Entrance Coordinator irene.wilcox@isd47.org

Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools
1833 Osauka Road NE
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

Phone: 320-258-1272
Fax # 320-253-1444

4. A preliminary screening will be conducted by a District kindergarten teacher and the Early Entrance Coordinator by **April 15**. To meet preliminary requirements for early entrance to kindergarten, a child's screening results will indicate above average social and emotional maturity and include an assessment of a student's readiness and motivation for acceleration, the ability to satisfactorily meet kindergarten expectations, and the ability to progress to first grade in the subsequent year.

5. A team of professionals composed of the Early Entrance Coordinator, the Director of Teaching and Learning, a District kindergarten teacher, and the principal of the school where the child will attend will determine if preliminary eligibility requirements have been met, or if early entrance placement is not recommended. The decision of the Committee will be final and communicated immediately thereafter to the parents by the Early Entrance Coordinator, no later than **April 30** preceding the anticipated enrollment.

6. A written appeal may be addressed to the Sauk Rapids-Rice Superintendent of Schools. Copies of the information gathered and the Early Entrance Committee's decision will be available upon request.

7. Parent's/guardians will be given instructions to register their student for Kindergarten online. The Early Entrance Coordinator will be in contact with the student's kindergarten teacher before open house in August and continue communication throughout the first two weeks of school.





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8. A student's early entrance to kindergarten will be reviewed by at least two members of the Early Entrance Committee at Fall Conference time in the school where the child attends, and sooner if necessary. If continuation is not recommended, this will be communicated by the last fall conference date at the school where the student is enrolled. During this time, the parent(s)/guardian(s) may request, in writing, the discontinuation of the acceleration without any repercussions. The accelerated placement of the student will become permanent at the end of this transition period. Once the plan becomes permanent it will be entered into the student's permanent record.

The Sauk Rapids-Rice School District is committed to excellence in academic achievement for all of our students. We look forward to the opportunity to meet the educational needs of your child. Should you have any questions regarding early entrance to kindergarten or this procedure, please do not hesitate to contact Irene Wilcox or your neighborhood school principal.

Irene Wilcox
Early Entrance Coordinator
Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools
irene.wilcox@isd47.org
320-258-1272





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Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools Early Entrance to Kindergarten Application Date Due: March 15

Please consider all questions and statements. Be sure each response is as complete as possible. For assistance completing this form, please contact Irene Wilcox 320-253-0506.

Child's Name: _____ Gender: _____ Birth Date: _____
 Street Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
 Home Phone: _____ School child will be attending: _____
 Open Enrollment: N Y Home District: _____
 Parent(s)/Guardian(s):
 _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____
 _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Developmental History

Date this form is completed: _____

Sibling: _____ Gender: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____
 Sibling: _____ Gender: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____
 Sibling: _____ Gender: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____
 Sibling: _____ Gender: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

Primary language spoken at home: _____

1. _____ At what age did your child walk independently?
2. _____ At what age did your child begin to talk in clearly understood phrases?
3. Y N Does your child nap in the afternoon?
4. Y N Does your child have any on-going health concerns or illnesses? If yes, please describe.





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5. Check the self-help tasks your child can perform independently:

- _____ zip
- _____ dress in outer clothing
- _____ button
- _____ manage toileting
- _____ tie
- _____ wash hands

If needed, additional comments about child's developmental history:

Preschool Information

List all preschools attended and dates of attendance. Please provide **Preschool Questionnaire** to the most recent preschool your child has attended for completion.

School: _____ Dates attended: _____

Person to contact: _____ Phone: _____

School: _____ Dates attended: _____

Person to contact: _____ Phone: _____

If your child has not attended preschool, please list any preschool-type experiences your child has had:

Is there someone we could speak with who has worked with your child in a group situation?

Person to contact: _____ Phone: _____

Describe this group setting or situation.

Please sign below to indicate your permission to contact these preschools/people for additional information if needed.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____





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Reason for Request

1. State your rationale for requesting early entrance to kindergarten for your child.
2. Describe any behaviors or accomplishments that lead you to believe your child has exceptional and early development.
3. What do you see as possible advantages and disadvantages of acceleration?

Advantages:

Disadvantages:

Child's Characteristics

1. Provide examples of how your child reasons things out, recognizes relationships, or comprehends abstract meaning.
2. Describe your child's curiosity.
3. Describe your child's interest in books and reading.





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10. Describe your child's ability to play or work with others.

11. Describe your child's persistence or ability to follow through to completion on an activity that excites him/her. Please use examples.

12. Describe how your child deals with conflicts or problems, such as conflicts with others, not getting his/her own way, having to make a choice between three favorite things, taking turns, etc.

13. Describe your child's ability to take risks. How does your child deal with unfamiliar activities or being away from home?

14. Describe how your child deals with frustration and manages emotions.

15. Describe your child's attention span.





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16. Please give any additional information which you feel is significant.

17. What questions do you have about your child entering kindergarten early?

Please scan and email or print and return it to:

Irene Wilcox, Early Entrance Coordinator
Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools/Pleasantview
1009 6th Ave North
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

irene.wilcox@isd47.org
Phone: 320-253-0506
Fax # 320-253-1444

DUE DATE: March 15





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Preschool Questionnaire

Please share this with the most appropriate individual in your child’s preschool or daycare setting. If your child has not had a preschool or daycare experience, this will be noted on the registration materials you complete. Once completed, the form can be emailed or mailed to the Early Entrance Coordinator, at the contact information included on the questionnaire.

Person completing this form: _____ Relationship to the child: _____

Title: _____ Day Phone Number: _____

Preschool: _____ Location: _____

Check the self-help tasks this child can perform independently: Date : _____

_____ zip _____ dress in outer clothing Comments:

_____ button _____ manage toileting

_____ wash hands _____ tie

Please consider all questions and statements. Be sure each response is as complete as possible.

1. Describe any behaviors or accomplishments that lead you to believe this child has exceptional and early development.

2. What do you see as possible advantages and disadvantages of acceleration for this child?

Advantages:

Disadvantages:





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3. Please provide examples of how this child reasons things out, recognizes relationships, or comprehends abstract meaning.

4. Describe this child's curiosity.

5. Describe this child's interest in books and reading.

6. If this child does read, do you know how this learning occurred? Please describe.

7. What knowledge of numbers and basic arithmetic does this child display in your setting?





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8. What are this child's favorite activities in your setting?

9. What is this child's interest and skill level in fine motor activities? (cutting, writing, etc.)

10. Describe the gross motor activities this child enjoys (skipping, swinging, catching, etc.)

11. Describe this child's socialization and ability to play or work with others.

12. Describe this child's persistence or ability to follow through to completion on an activity that excites him/her. Please use examples.





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13. Describe how this child deals with conflicts or problems, such as conflicts with others, not getting his/her own way, having to make a choice between three favorite things, taking turns, etc.

14. Describe this child's self-efficacy and ability to take risks. How does this child deal with unfamiliar activities or being away from home?

15. Describe how this child deals with frustration and manages or self-regulates emotions.

16. Describe this child's attention span.

17. Please give any additional information which you feel is significant.

Please send completed questionnaire to:

Irene Wilcox, Early Entrance Coordinator
Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools
1833 Osauka Road NE
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

irene.wilcox@isd47.org
Phone: 320-258-1272
Fax # 320-253-1444
DUE DATE: March 3

