



Steger School District 194

Administration Center • 3753 Park Avenue • Steger, Illinois 60475
(708) 753-4300 Phone • (708) 755-9512 Fax • www.sd194.org

Dr. David T. Frusher
*Superintendent
of Schools*

Eric T. Diehl
*Assistant Superintendent
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*Director of Teaching
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Kimberly W. Mahoney
*Director of
Special Education*

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

Criteria:

- Proof of residency according to current district policies
- Kindergarten: The child's fifth birthday falls between September 2, 2020 and November 9, 2020, as documented by a certified copy of the birth certificate.
- First Grade: The child's sixth birthday falls between September 2, 2020 and November 9, 2020, as documented by a certified copy of the 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, and on 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.

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Requesting Early Admission to Kindergarten or First Grade: Procedures

Step 1. Letter of Request: First year of implementation 2020-2021: To begin the process, parents must submit a letter to Steger School District 194 Administrative Center, Attn: Ms. Jan Lenci, on or before August 13, 2020 indicating the reasons why early admission to kindergarten or 1st grade is being requested. **Completion of Parent Request Form and Parent Survey Form:** The parents must also complete and submit the Parent Request Form and a Parent Interview Form with the letter of request described above on or before August 13, 2020. It is important that the person who completes these forms is the person that the child lives with. ***All subsequent years beginning with 2020-21 school year:** submission of ALL documents listed above must be completed/submitted on or before April 1st for the upcoming school year.

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

Step 3: DAS: If the team determines that the DAS 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 DAS will be analyzed by the district team.

Step 4: Assessment: A student scoring 120 or higher on the DAS will be scheduled for a student interview and the KTEA Assessment. A certified school Psychologist and school Social Worker 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 2 hours; results from the KTEA assessment/interview 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 by letter, indicating how to proceed to enroll their child for the 2020-21 school year. If the request is not approved, the principal will inform the parents by letter 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 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 will be withdrawn, and the district will follow **Illinois School Code regarding enrollment into Kindergarten or 1st Grade.**

Please contact the Steger School District 194 Administrative Center at 708-753-4300 with any questions you have about the early entrance process.

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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:

- Differential Ability Scales (DAS) IQ Test (must score 120 or higher)
- Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement (KTEA) (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



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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 class mates

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

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