

EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN AND GRADE ONE PROCEDURE

The parent(s)/guardian(s) must provide a written request for early admission to kindergarten or first grade for a child to the Superintendent of Schools by June 1st. The written request must include the child's name, address, birthdate, and, if applicable, a preschool/kindergarten teacher's recommendation, and/or any assessment accommodations determined by the child's IEP/504 Team. Each parent(s)/guardian(s) request will be answered advising the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the time, date, and place of testing.

Each child will be administered a standardized school readiness test by Merrimack School District personnel. If a child becomes upset or ill during testing, s/he will be retested during the next testing period reserved for late arrivals in Merrimack. The late arrival period for families moving into the district is after June 1st, but prior to August 15th.

If the child scores in the seventh stanine or above on the standardized school readiness test, s/he will be eligible for consideration as a kindergarten or first grade student. If the child scores at the sixth stanine on this test, s/he will be invited to participate in further evaluation. The evaluation may include a minimum of one additional assessment measure, a speech/language screening, and/or input from parent(s)/guardian(s). The final decision as to whether these students will be admitted as early entrants will be the responsibility of the individual school principal and, ultimately, the Superintendent of Schools or designee.

A student scoring below the sixth stanine will not be considered further as an early admission candidate. Information will be available, upon request, for the parent(s)/guardian(s) to assist their child for school entrance the following year.

Any child who has been enrolled in a first-grade school experience who resided outside of Merrimack prior to August 31st and does not reach the age of six until October, November, or December is eligible for early admission if the parent(s)/guardian(s) submit a written request to the Superintendent of Schools. The request must be supplemented by any written evidence available attesting to the child's developmental and academic readiness and be supported by recommendations from the first grade attended by the child. If the transfer occurs in January or thereafter and evidence of success is shown, the child will continue in the first grade of school experience.

Any child who has been enrolled in a kindergarten school experience who resided outside of Merrimack prior to August 31st and does not reach the age of five until October 31st, is eligible for early admission if the parent(s)/guardian(s) submit a written request to the Superintendent of Schools. The request must be supplemented by any written evidence available attesting to the child's developmental and academic readiness and be supported by recommendations from the kindergarten attended by the child. If the transfer occurs in November or thereafter and evidence of success is shown, the child will continue in the kindergarten school experience.