



Early Entrance to First Grade Process

Early Entrance to First Grade is considered a form of whole-grade acceleration in Roselle District 12 (Board Policy 6:135 - Acceleration Placement Policy). This is an educational intervention that may be appropriate for some children who will turn six between September 2nd and December 31st who demonstrate exceptionally high ability and developmental levels in all assessed areas.

Early Entrance to First Grade is reserved for children with exceptionally high ability and developmental levels 1 to 1½ years above their actual age in the following areas; cognitive ability, social and emotional maturity, academic ability, and gross-and fine-motor coordination. Therefore, Early Entrance to First Grade is not appropriate for most children and very few will qualify each year.

Should I consider my child for Early Entrance to First Grade?

Early school experiences can influence children for their entire lives. Even children who show exceptional developmental levels may not need early access to first grade. Therefore, parents should carefully consider:

- The maturity level of the child (sharing with others, cooperative play, taking turns, following directions, and handling frustration)
- The confidence level of the child's interaction with other children and adults (social confidence and communication skills)
- The readiness level of the child for school (following routines, working independently, self-help skills such as eating and getting dressed)
- The attention level of the child and ability share a teacher's time with many other children
- The initiative level of the child (being a self-starter, works well alone, needs few directions and little supervision)
- The problem-solving level of the child (demonstrating analytical thinking and problem solving skills)
- The communication level of the child (use of advanced vocabulary in written and oral communication)

What is the process for Early Entrance to First Grade?

To be eligible for consideration for Early Entrance to First Grade, the child must turn six years old by December 31st of the school year for which they are seeking entrance.

The child must reside within the Roselle District 12 boundaries and be registering as an incoming Kindergarten student.

STEP 1: Apply for Early Entrance to First Grade

Parents/guardians of children who turn 6 between September 2nd and December 31st and would like their child to be evaluated for Early Entrance to First Grade must complete an Early Entrance to First Grade Application **by *March 1st** of the school year the student is registering to attend Kindergarten.

STEP 2: Proof of Roselle D12 Residency and Original Birth Certificate

Beginning **March 1st**, parents/guardians must make an appointment with JoAnn Dumelle at the Roselle District 12 Administration Office by email jdumelle@sd12.org or by phone 630-529-2091. Requested documents must be brought in person to the Roselle District 12 Administration Office (100 E. Walnut Street, Roselle). Please bring the child's original birth certificate when dropping off residency paperwork. Residency verification must be completed by **April 1st**.

STEP 3: Pre-Evaluation Screening

The student will be required to attend a screening appointment that will take place in-person at Spring Hills School in late March or early April. The specific date, time, and location will be sent to the parent/guardian once application and residency have been accepted. Parents will complete a questionnaire while their child is being screened.

Screenings are provided by a team of licensed district personnel and are designed to gather the necessary assessment information used to determine if a child is a candidate to be evaluated for Early Entrance to First Grade. For some students, the process will end at this juncture based on the readiness data collected by the District screening team. Only children demonstrating high ability and developmental levels 1 to 1½ years above their chronological age in all areas will be considered a candidate to be evaluated for Early Entrance to First Grade. Parents/guardians will be notified of the results of the screening no later than **two weeks after the screening**.

STEP 4: Evaluation for Early Entrance to First Grade Candidates

The notified candidates will be given a series of assessments to determine if Early Entrance to First Grade is appropriate for their education. The specific date, time, and location will be given to the parent/guardian upon communication of the screening results.

An evaluation is provided by the school psychologist and/or other licensed district personnel. District 12 completes a standardized assessment of academic skills in early literacy, reading, number sense, math, and verbal and non-verbal reasoning, as well as aptitude and cognitive ability. A child must perform 1 to 1½ years beyond their chronological age on all assessments to qualify for Early Entrance to First Grade.

Based on the completed evaluation, a team of District 12 personnel will make a decision regarding the appropriate grade placement. Parents/guardians will be notified to share the results and final decision no later than two weeks after the evaluation. The decision made by the District 12 team is final.

*Families who move into District 12 after the March 1st deadline and are interested in applying for Early Entrance to First Grade should contact Kelly Lynn, the Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Teaching by email at klynn@sd12.org or by phone at 630-529-2091 x1012.