



LAKE FOREST SCHOOL DISTRICT

2019 – 2020 Guidelines for Early Entrance to Kindergarten

Students may enter public school kindergarten programs in Delaware if they turn five on or before August 31 of the year they plan to enroll. **Students who turn five after the August 31 "cutoff," but turn five between September 1 and September 30, may be considered eligible under special circumstances.** State guidelines allow students who are classified as "Gifted" to enroll before they are five. Parents or guardians are required to make a formal request for Early Entrance to Kindergarten to the Superintendent of the Lake Forest School District. The following procedures must be followed:

- 1) Parents or guardians should direct their request for "Early Entrance to Kindergarten" in writing to the Superintendent of Lake Forest School District. The letter must include the child's name, birth date, mailing address, and a phone number where the parent can be reached, as well as rationale as to why their child should be considered for early entrance. This request should be made no later than the announced district kindergarten registration dates, which generally occur during the months of March or April.
- 2) Parents will be contacted by letter to inform them if their request has been approved or denied. Those granted approval will be directed to schedule an appointment for screening during the Childfind Screening Program held each spring/summer in the District. In order to be considered for screening as an Early Entrance candidate, a copy of the approval letter must be on file at the school where the screening takes place. Screening takes about an hour.
- 3) In order to be recommended for an individual assessment, the student must pass all areas of the Childfind Screening Instrument (The DIAL-4), which includes motor, concepts, and Language (with a minimum composite score of 94). The student will also be expected to meet the social-emotional expectations for an entering kindergarten student (maturity, attention span, ability to separate from parent, cooperation, motivation, etc.). A checklist will be completed by members of the Childfind Screening Team in this interest.

These requirements are set in place to assure that students not meeting the state required age limit are functioning above their chronological age, and more on level with students old enough to start public school. Only students who are Intellectually Gifted are permitted to start kindergarten early according to State Regulations.

- 4) Children who pass the screening and are recommended by the screening team for further assessment, will be given an Individual Test of Cognitive Ability (Intelligence Test) by one of the district's school psychologists. In order to qualify for Early Entrance to Kindergarten, the student must earn a score at the 98th Percentile (Standard Score 130 or above). Out of 100 students taking the intelligence test, only two are expected to earn a score of 130 or higher. These scores are indicative of a child who is intellectually gifted.
- 5) Parents of those students who meet the above criteria will be notified by July 31, regarding their child's Early Entrance into Kindergarten. Parents will then be allowed to enroll their child in school.
- Parents who move into the district after the Spring Childfind Screening, or who have been unable to schedule an appointment for good cause, may request individual screening by writing the superintendent. If approved, the same criteria listed above will apply, with screening to take place during the summer Childfind Screening. Parents will be contacted regarding time and place for this screening.

NOTE: This procedure is not meant to exclude students under the age of five who may have developmental delays and/or who are selected to participate in the Early Childhood Program.

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Mr. Robert Murphy, Student Services Supervisor, at 284-3020 ext. 108.