

District 202 Accelerated Placement Programming

Accelerated Placement: Early Entrance to Kindergarten or 1st Grade

Overview

In Illinois, children must be 5 years old on or before September 1 to enroll in Kindergarten, as per state law. However, under the Accelerated Placement Act, children may be considered for early entrance to Kindergarten or 1st grade.

Accelerated placement is a significant decision that can impact a child's academic, social, and emotional development throughout their K-12 education. While some children demonstrate advanced abilities, they may not yet possess the social, emotional, or physical readiness necessary for success in an accelerated environment. Therefore, the criteria for early entrance are intentionally rigorous to ensure children are fully prepared for the challenges ahead.

Considerations for Families

Families should carefully weigh the potential long-term impacts of early entrance on their child's overall development, including:

- **Social and Emotional Development:** Accelerated children may experience challenges forming peer relationships due to differences in maturity or interests.
- **Extracurricular Participation:** Younger children may face difficulties excelling in sports or extracurricular activities due to age or size differences.
- **Self-Confidence:** Early school experiences significantly influence a child's confidence and future academic success.

It is essential to consider whether early enrollment aligns with your child's developmental needs and long-term well-being.

Process for Requesting Early Entrance

To request early entrance to Kindergarten or 1st grade:

1. Submit a **written request** to your building administrator by June 1.
2. Provide proof of Residency in Plainfield CCSD 202 attendance zones.
3. Provide your child's original birth certificate.
4. The school will arrange assessments and social-emotional readiness evaluations on an individual basis.

Criteria for Early Entrance

Early entrance requires children to meet specific academic, social, and emotional readiness benchmarks. These criteria ensure the child is prepared to thrive in an advanced educational setting.

Kindergarten Placement (all criteria must be met):**1. Reading Readiness:**

- Observational Survey (O/S) subtests: Letter Identification, Letter Sounds, Concepts of Print, Hearing and Recording Sounds in Words (HRSW), Writing Vocabulary, Ohio Word Test.
- Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA): Independent reading level 10.

2. Mathematics:

- End-of-Year Kindergarten Math Assessment: Minimum score of 80%.

3. Social and Emotional Readiness:

- Demonstrated ability to sustain attention, follow directions, stay on task, complete tasks independently, separate from parents, and respond appropriately to questions and requests.

1st Grade Placement (all criteria must be met):**1. Reading and Math Achievement:**

- Scores in the 90th percentile or above on nationally normed assessments.
- Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA): Independent reading level 18.
- Observational Survey (O/S): Letter Identification, Hearing and Recording Sounds in Words (HRSW), Writing Vocabulary, Ohio Word Test.

2. Mathematics:

- End-of-Year 1st Grade Math Assessment: Minimum score of 80%.

For Dual Language Students:

Students in the Dual Language One-Way Program may complete assessments in Spanish if applicable.

Questions:

Please direct initial questions to building administrators