

# Early Entrance to Kindergarten

## 2023-2024 Application Guide



Application  
Deadline  
**April 14, 2023**

OSSEO AREA SCHOOLS  
ISD  279

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If you have any questions about applying for Early Entrance to Kindergarten, please contact the Enrollment Center:

Address: 7051 Brooklyn Blvd.  
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

Phone: (763) 585-7350  
Email: [enrollmentcenter@district279.org](mailto:enrollmentcenter@district279.org)

Si necesita ayuda en español para llenar esta forma, por favor llame al siguiente número de teléfono: 763-585-7350.

Yog koj xav tau kev pab los yog muaj lus nug txog daim ntawv no, thov hu rau tus xov tooj: 763-585-7350.



# APPLICATION: HOW TO APPLY

## 1. CONFIRM ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for enrollment in Kindergarten, your child must turn age 5 on or before September 1 of the school year desired.

Children who turn age 5 between September 2nd and November 1st of the school year desired are eligible to apply for Early Entrance to Kindergarten.

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## 2. Ensure Early Childhood Screening is scheduled

Early Childhood Screening must be scheduled prior to applying for Early Entrance to Kindergarten. Please see Page 9 for details.

Children who attend Head Start or Early Childhood Special Education programs may not need to be screened. For more information call (763) 391-8777.

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## 3. Application deadline - April 14, 2023

The Early Entrance to Kindergarten Application must be received at the Enrollment Center by **3:30pm on APRIL 14, 2023**. The Enrollment Center is open Monday through Friday from 7:30am to 3:30pm.

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## 4. Verify receipt of application (optional)

You may verify the receipt of your application by contacting the Enrollment Center at:

Phone: (763) 585-7350

Email: [enrollmentcenter@district279.org](mailto:enrollmentcenter@district279.org)

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## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What if I missed the April 14th application deadline?

If you missed the April 14, 2023 deadline, Early Entrance to Kindergarten is no longer an option.

### What if my child was accepted for Early Entrance to Kindergarten in another school district?

Each school district's Early Entrance to Kindergarten process is significantly different. Therefore, all Early Entrance to Kindergarten applications for Osseo Area Schools must be received by 3:30pm on April 14, 2023.



**APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 14, 2023 by 3:30 pm**  
**APPLICATION REQUIREMENT: Attach Early Childhood Screening results**

## 1 STUDENT

### 1. Legal Name:

EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS  
ON BIRTH CERTIFICATE OR  
OTHER LEGAL DOCUMENT

Last (family)

First

Middle

Jr., III, etc.

### 2. Preferred First Name:

3. Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

### 4. Birth Date:

STUDENT MUST BE AGE 5  
BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 2  
AND NOVEMBER 1

Month

Day

Year

## 2 SIBLINGS

### 5. List all of the student's siblings:

#### Sibling Name

Last (family)

First

Middle Initial

Jr., III, etc.

#### Gender

Male

Female

#### Birth Date

Month

Day

Year

## 3 EARLY ENTRANCE PREPARATION

### 6. Please list your child's experience with groups of other children away from his/her parent/guardian, such as nursery school, preschool, daycare, etc.:

#### Name of Facility or Provider

#### Phone Number

Area Code

#### Dates of Attendance

Month

Day

Year

Month

Day

Year

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### 7. How do you think it would benefit your child to start school a year early?

### 8. In what ways does your child demonstrate above average intellectual and social readiness for school?

### 9. How does your child feel about school?

2023-2024 EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN APPLICATION (CONTINUED)

4 STUDENT

10. In the event that this page is separated from the first page, please provide the following information:

Legal Name (EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS ON BIRTH CERTIFICATE OR OTHER LEGAL DOCUMENT)				Gender		Birth Date		
Last (family)	First	Middle Initial	Jr., III, etc.	Male	Female	Month	Day	Year
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	/	/	

5 EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING

Early Childhood Screening must have been completed prior to applying for Early Entrance to Kindergarten.

Early Childhood Screening is required by the State of Minnesota for kindergarten admission and is a careful check of your child's health, well-being, and development. The results of the screening will help identify needs that may require special attention before your child enters school.

You may have your child's Early Childhood Screening completed by:

- ◆ The ISD 279 Screening Office. Call (763) 391-8776, Monday-Thursday, September through May, to schedule an appointment. *There is no cost for your child to be screened by District 279.*
- ◆ Your family physician, if a standardized development test is used. Check with your doctor's office to see if their screening meets the state's requirement.

Children who attend Head Start or Early Childhood Special Education programs may not need to be screened. Call (763) 391-8776 for more information.

11. Provide the date and location where your child's Early Childhood Screening was completed:

Location	Date of Screening
Name of School District, Physician/Clinic, Head Start, or Early Childhood Special Education Program	Month Day Year
	/ /

12. I have attached a copy of the results of my child's Early Childhood Screening.

Initials of Parent/Legal Guardian:

6 ASSESSMENT AND PROBATIONARY ADMISSION

13. I understand that if my child does not meet the criteria for any of the two steps (Observation and Evaluation) of the Early Entrance to Kindergarten assessment, he/she will not be authorized to continue in the Early Entrance to Kindergarten process.

Initials of Parent/Legal Guardian:

14. I understand that, due to the time and resources required for the Early Entrance to Kindergarten process, all decisions regarding my child's eligibility are final.

Initials of Parent/Legal Guardian:

15. I understand that entering kindergarten early as a four-year-old means probationary admission through the end of the first trimester. I will be notified by the school if the needs of my child would be better met by entering school as a kindergartner the following year.

Initials of Parent/Legal Guardian:

7 PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

16. Parent/ Guardian Name:

17. Address:

18. Telephone:

19. I hereby give consent for the assessment of my child. The school district has my permission to contact any of the Early Entrance preparation facilities or providers listed. I certify the information given above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Mail, Email or Deliver to:

ISD 279 - Osseo Area Schools  
Enrollment Center  
7051 Brooklyn Boulevard  
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

Email:  
enrollmentcenter@district279.org

OSSEO AREA SCHOOLS  
ISD 279

Signature:  Date:



# PROCESS: AFTER YOU APPLY

The process of qualifying for the Early Entrance to Kindergarten program consists of three steps:

1. Appointment with Enrollment Center staff
2. Observation
3. Evaluation/Cognitive Assessment

After each step, children who have met the criteria established for that particular step will be authorized to continue in the Early Entrance to Kindergarten assessment process.

## APPOINTMENT WITH ENROLLMENT CENTER STAFF (April)

The parent/legal guardian will have a scheduled appointment with an Enrollment Center staff member to complete the ASQ:SE Information Summary. After the summary is reviewed, an observation will be scheduled for the simulated kindergarten experience.



## OBSERVATION (May) 5/13/2023

An observation team composed of administrators, kindergarten and early childhood teachers will conduct an initial review of your child in a simulated kindergarten environment looking for social and emotional maturity, self-regulation, language skills, and fine motor skills.

The Enrollment Center will notify the parent/legal guardian with the date and time of their child's observation. Rescheduling is not possible.



## OBSERVATION RESULTS (Late May/Early June)

The Enrollment Center will notify the parent/legal guardian via letter if the child:

- Is recommended to proceed to the Evaluation/Cognitive Assessment process; or
- Is not recommended for Early Entrance to Kindergarten.

## EVALUATION/COGNITIVE ASSESSMENT (Must be completed by 6/23/2023; and the Psychologist's results to the Enrollment Center by 7/7/2023)

If your child is recommended to proceed to the Evaluation/Cognitive Assessment process, the Enrollment Center will provide the parent/legal guardian with information on the next step.

- ◆ The parent/legal guardian has sole responsibility to pay for and schedule the child's assessment.
- ◆ The minimum IQ requirement is 125.

Cognitive results must be submitted directly to the Enrollment Center by the organization.



## EVALUATION RESULTS (Mailed by 7/28/2023)

The Enrollment Center will notify the biological parent/legal guardian via letter if the child:

- ◆ May enter kindergarten early on a probationary admission; or
- ◆ Will not be admitted for Early Entrance but may enroll in kindergarten the following fall.

If the child is recommended for probationary admission, the Enrollment Center will provide the parent/legal guardian with the information needed to enroll the child in kindergarten. For questions on open enrolling your child, see page 8, "Can I Choose The School That My Child Attends?"



# PROCESS: (continued)

## PREPARING FOR OBSERVATION

Once parents/guardians have become informed about Early Entrance to Kindergarten and decide to proceed with the observation, the child should be given every opportunity to perform well. Prepare the child physically by getting him or her to bed early the night before, providing breakfast, comfortable play clothes and shoes.

The best approach to prepare your child for the day is usually a straightforward one. Explain to your child that he or she will be working with someone who helps the teachers at school and that there will be other children waiting to do the same activities. The activities are fun, and they should enjoy the session while doing their best. Bring things for your child to work on quietly if they have to wait a few minutes for their appointment.

The focus is on gathering information to help adults make decisions about your child's readiness to enter school early and have a successful and positive school experience. Many children who participate in the observation are developing normally, but may not meet the criteria for Early Entrance. Be supportive of your child, and help him or her have a good experience.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **How will my child feel if he/she is not among the children who met the criteria for acceptance?**

A child's reaction usually depends on how the situation has been presented and how parents/guardians react to the admission decision. Parents/guardians who react strongly to the results may send the message to the child that he/she has failed or done something wrong. The child will maintain self esteem if the parents/guardians present the information positively and stress how much better prepared the child will be after another year in preschool.

### **What are some reasons children do not meet the criteria?**

The basic reason is that most children are developing at a normal or slightly above average rate.

### **Why are the standards for Early Entrance so rigorous?**

Children who enter school early are placed in a situation with others who may be a year older and have had the advantage of additional life experience and development. High standards in the Early Entrance to Kindergarten process helps ensure that kindergarten readiness is demonstrated consistently among several areas of development. Over the past five years, less than 5% of the students have been recommended for Early Entrance to Kindergarten on a probationary basis.



# PROBATIONARY ADMISSION

**Early Entrance to Kindergarten enrollment is probationary until the end of the first trimester.**

The child's school will notify the parent/legal guardian by the end of the first trimester if the child is recommended to:

- ◆ Continue in kindergarten; or
- ◆ Withdraw for the remainder of the school year and return for kindergarten the following fall.

## About Probationary Admission

Probationary admission means that school staff will be monitoring your child to ensure that kindergarten is appropriate to his/her learning, social-emotional, and developmental needs. If the kindergarten setting is not an appropriate match for the needs of your child, he/she may be removed from school and asked to enroll the following fall.

It will be important to attend school conferences, maintain communication with the classroom teacher, and have a back-up plan in the event that kindergarten is not appropriate for your child at this time. If a child were to be removed prior to the end of the probationary admission period, we highly recommend that the child attend a preschool program.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Can I choose the school that my child attends?

Yes, with limitations. Parents/legal guardians applying for Early Entrance to Kindergarten for their child may apply through school choice for their child to attend a school outside of their attendance area school or resident district after the child has been approved for Early Entrance to Kindergarten. Since the Early Entrance process is not finalized until the summer of the school year desired, the number of kindergarten spaces available through the school choice option, including magnet schools, are typically very limited.

### Are there any school-age care options?

Our Community Engagement Department offers a program called Kidstop as an option for supervised care before and/or after the school day for children entering Kindergarten through grade 5, and on most non-school days for an additional fee.

Families may also be interested in our Four Star Express program. Four Star Express is an all-day childcare/early learning program offered at eight elementary schools

For more information about Kidstop or Four Star Express, please visit our web site at [www.kidstop279.org](http://www.kidstop279.org) or [www.fourstarexpress279.org](http://www.fourstarexpress279.org). If you have any additional questions, you can email them to [CEcares@district279.org](mailto:CEcares@district279.org) or call 763-585-7281.

## Please remember...

Once all acceptance criteria has been met, YOU as the parent/legal guardian make the final decision to enroll your child through Early Entrance to Kindergarten on a probationary basis. You may choose to withdraw your child at any point in time during the Early Entrance to Kindergarten process.





# Early Childhood Screening

Screening is a **FREE** service for all children.

All Minnesota children need to be screened prior to enrolling in kindergarten. The ideal time for screening is between the ages of 3 and 4. Your child's screening results are based on their age at the time of screening. At screening, parents learn about their child's growth and development and can ask questions if they have concerns.

**Early Childhood Screening is a **FREE** check of your child's:**

Vision ■ Hearing ■ Height ■ Weight ■ Development

Screening helps identify children who may benefit from resources to help their development.

Screening appointments can be scheduled online at [osseo.ce.eleyo.com](https://osseo.ce.eleyo.com).

To schedule a screening appointment by phone, call 763-391-8777.

En Español, Lus Hmoob, Bằng Tiếng Việt: 855-938-0586

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What should I bring to my child's Early Childhood Screening appointment?**  
Your child's immunization record
2. **What happens during an Early Childhood Screening?**  
Early Childhood Screening checks your child's health and development. Screening in school districts is usually done by a teacher or a nurse. Screening includes a review of height, weight, vision, hearing, speech, social and emotional progress and overall development. Results from the developmental screen are based on your child's age at the time of screening
3. **What if my child does not speak English?**  
Ask for an interpreter when you call for an appointment or schedule an appointment online. When a child is learning two languages, it is better to screen in the language most often heard and spoken in the home.
4. **What happens if the screener finds a concern during the screening?**  
There are a few options if the screener doing the screening finds an area of concern in your child's development. You and the screener may decide to refer your child for an evaluation by the school district or medical clinic. The screener may also recommend an early childhood experience for your child or give you community resources.
5. **My child is registered for preschool. When should I schedule an Early Childhood Screening?**  
If you are registering your 3 year old child, schedule an appointment when your child is 3 1/2. If you are registering your 4-year old child, schedule an appointment now at [osseo.ce.eleyo.com](https://osseo.ce.eleyo.com) or by calling 763-391-8777. En Español, Lus Hmoob, Bằng Tiếng Việt: 855-938-0586.
6. **Where are Screening appointments held?**  
Arbor View Early Childhood Center  
Brooklyn Park Library  
Willow Lane Early Childhood Center

# Questions?

Enrollment Center  
7051 Brooklyn Blvd  
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

(763) 585-7350  
enrollmentcenter@district279.org  
www.district279.org

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OSSEO AREA SCHOOLS

ISD  279

Our mission is to inspire and prepare each and every scholar with the confidence, courage and competence to achieve their dreams; contribute to community; and engage in a lifetime of learning