

Community Consolidated School District 46



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Early Entrance into Kindergarten or First Grade

Community Consolidated School District 46 complies with Illinois law which specifies that to enter kindergarten children must be five years of age by September 1 of their kindergarten year and six years of age by September 1 of their first-grade year. However, CCSD 46 allows exceptions to this law for children whose skills are in the very superior range when compared with their peers. These exemptions are required in the Accelerated Placement Program (Board Policy 6:135) based on the assessment of a child's readiness to attend school early.

Early entrance to kindergarten or first grade should be considered a full-grade acceleration, appropriate only for those students who demonstrate compelling evidence for that decision. Parents requesting early entrance should be aware that very few students meet the criteria to enter kindergarten or first grade early. Our standards for early entrance are very high to ensure that students are not frustrated by their advanced grade placement now and throughout their education. In addition to exceptional academic skills, we also consider social-emotional-interpersonal skills, stamina, self-care, language processing, and visual-motor integration. The decision to allow a student early entrance is solely at the discretion of the school district based on an assessment conducted by the school district. All decisions should be considered final.

Typical Kindergarten Placement in CCSD 46

- Child is five years old by September 1 confirmed with an original birth certificate (with a raised seal issued by the clerk in the county where the child was born)
- Family provides appropriate proof of residency as a resident of CCSD 46
- Family provides all requested registration materials

Typical First Grade Placement in CCSD 46

- Child is six years old by September 1 confirmed with an original birth certificate (with a raised seal issued by the clerk in the county where the child was born)
- Family provides appropriate proof of residency as a resident of CCSD 46
- Family provides all requested registration materials

Early Kindergarten Consideration in CCSD 46*

- Child is five years old by December 31 confirmed with an original birth certificate (with a raised seal issued by the clerk in the county where the child was born)
- Family provides appropriate proof of residency as a resident of CCSD 46 and all requested registration materials

- Family submits the Early Admission into Kindergarten Request Form between April 1 and May 15 of the prior year
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) attend a preliminary meeting to discuss the request with school team
- Family may provide any available school records to support the decision
- Family may provide authorization for school team to be in communication with current school staff
- Child is assessed by the school team prior to the end of the school year in May/June
- Assessment results indicate a very superior range on all assessed areas compared to peers

Final decision will be communicated by building principal or district office staff by June 15

Successful completion of Early Admittance in Kindergarten would indicate an automatic placement in First Grade the following year.

Early First Grade Consideration in CCSD 46*

- Child is six years old by December 31 confirmed with an original birth certificate (with a raised seal issued by the clerk in the county where the child was born)
- Child attended a non-public preschool and completes kindergarten at that same facility
- Child was taught by an appropriately certified kindergarten teacher
- Family provides appropriate proof of residency as a resident of CCSD 46 and all requested registration materials
- Family submits the Early Admission into First Grade Request Form between April 1 and May 15 of the prior year
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) attend a preliminary meeting to discuss the request with school team
- Family may provide any available school records to support the decision
- Family may provide authorization for school team to be in communication with current school staff
- Child is assessed by the school team prior to the end of the school year in May/June
- Assessment results indicate a very superior range on all assessed areas compared to peers

Final decision will be communicated by building principal or district office staff by June 15

*Students enrolling in our Bilingual Program will be assessed primarily in Spanish to determine appropriate placement.

Potential Assessment Tools Used for Consideration (This list should not be considered exhaustive.)

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| ● Uppercase and Lowercase Naming | ● Speech/Language (Articulation, Expressive and Receptive Language) |
| ● Letter and Sound Recognition | ● IPT - Spanish Language Proficiency Screener (For a bilingual classroom placement) |
| ● Word Identification | ● Review of previous school records / report cards |
| ● Rhyme Recognition | ● CCSD 46 Math and Literacy Assessments (First Grade only) |
| ● Fountas and Pinnell Benchmarking | ● MAP Testing (Math and Reading) (First Grade only) |
| ● Self-Portrait | |
| ● Writing Sample | |
| ● Number Identification / Discrimination / Counting / Writing | |
| ● Shape Identification | |

Kindergarten Readiness

Students entering Kindergarten who have met the age requirement are all considered “ready” for Kindergarten. By state law we must allow them to enter into school. The range of this ‘readiness’ is very wide.

We have students who:

- have never attended any kind of structured school experience
- have never left their parent/guardian for extended periods of time
- have attended structured school and activities for 1-3 years
- know few or none of the letters and sounds
- know all of the letters and sounds
- can not recognize their names
- can print their full names correctly and write words / sentences
- can not recognize numbers or their meaning
- can count forwards and backwards through 100
- can not recognize any sight words
- can read short chapter books with expression and strong comprehension

Our experiences indicate that some students will need immediate intervention based on their ‘readiness’ level for Kindergarten. This intervention may last for months or multiple years as the students continue to catch up with peers. Other students will need extension and enrichment opportunities with their reading, writing, and math skills that are above their peers.

While some other local school districts will only consider students for early entrance to kindergarten if they are at the 95th or 97th percentile nationally on multiple assessments, we believe that students should not only be academically ready, but also well above average in kindergarten skills for consideration of early admittance.

These skills would include:

- thorough letter identification and oral / written production (not concerned with typical reversals)
- understanding of numbers (oral / written production through 20), number sense through at least 20, and counting (typically well past 20)
- simple shape identification
- understanding of rhyming words (not for a Bilingual Placement)
- writes words and/or simple sentences
- fine motor skills including drawing
- frustration reading minimally at Level C books (fluently read and comprehend Level B Books)
- appropriate expressive and receptive language skills and positional words
- appropriate separation from adults
- self-care skills - reported by parent / prior school
- stamina for a full day experience

First Grade Readiness

We believe that students should not only be socially and emotionally and academically ready, but also well above average in first grade skills for consideration of early admittance. These skills would include:

- strong phonics and phonemic awareness skills

strong language skills

frustration reading minimally at Level H/I books (fluently read and comprehend Level G/H Books)

write complete sentences with correct punctuation, grammar and spelling at an advanced level for Grade 1

write opinion, narrative, and informative/explanatory texts with support

read, write and compare numbers through 90

add and subtract within 20, demonstrate fluency for addition within 10

solve word problems

easily assimilate into a first grade classroom with appropriate social skills, self-care, behavior, fine-motor, gross motor and stamina needed

Please reach out to the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning at (847) 223-3540 if you have any additional questions.