

Early Entrance

Early Entrance since the 2014-15 school year:

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Assessed</u>	<u>Admitted</u>
2014-15	11	1
2015-16	4	1
2016-17	9	1
2017-18	8	0

Only 3 out of the 32 assessed over a 4-year period were admitted early to school.

Input from KPBSD building administration:

All KPBSD principals who have kindergarten programs have responded. With only two exceptions, all principals expressed that they would like the KPBSD policy amended to not allow early entrance. The reasons for this are as follows:

- Very few students make it past the screening
- The first interaction with the student and parent can be negative because the child did not get in for early entrance
- The process can be harmful for students because of an expectation from parents that they should have made it in
- It is time consuming for the building administration to do at the start of the year
- Our acceleration process works, so students can move up
- Students admitted early are often not socially/emotionally ready
- Many admitted students have struggled later
- Research shows the advantages of starting older
- The first experience with a “real” school is a test, which is not a great way to start

The two principals who felt we should keep the early entrance gave the following input:

- We should put more weight on social/emotional readiness vs. what we currently do
- Works in a village where a student will be the only one in a peer group not going to school
- Wondered why a student a day older than the cut-off date now has to be above average
- Felt the screening was biased
- Pre-K can turn into a negative experience for those who are advanced but don't get in early

Other Districts:

A review of the enrollment policies for the Anchorage School District, Mat-Su School District, and Fairbanks North Star Borough School District showed the following:

Matsu-requests for early entry must be made by July 15. Parents must obtain, at their own expense, an evaluation from a licensed private psychologist.

Anchorage-Allows children turning age 5 between 9/2 and 9/14 to be considered. If the child meets the **qualifications for free/reduced meals**, the district will cover the cost for the test. If the child does not qualify for free/reduced meals, the **parent must pay to have a licensed psychologist do the test.**

Fairbanks-Does not allow early entrance at all.