



## **Procedures for Early Entrance Consideration**

The early entrance process takes one to three weeks to complete from the time parent/guardian submits the application materials to the school. The process will include two or more appointments for your child to meet with staff who will test and evaluate your child's readiness for early entrance and a successful school career. A team consisting of at least a school counselor, school psychologist, and certificated teacher will make the final decision related to entrance. One of the team members will notify the parents of the decision.

We look forward to having you join the Bainbridge Island School District. Our early entrance pre-admission screening seeks to determine the most appropriate time for your child to join our district and begin a successful school career. The early entrance procedures are designed to screen and identify those children who:

- will turn 5 years of age after September 1 and prior to December 1 of the kindergarten year or will turn 6 years of age after September 1 and prior to December 1 of the first grade year;
- exhibit strong ability to excel in the Bainbridge Island School District;
- are selected on the basis of testing by district personnel with documented evidence of strength in 1) physical, health and motor development; 2) social and emotional development; 3) approaches toward learning; 4) language, literacy and communication; and 5) cognition and general knowledge; and
- could be adversely affected if early entrance were denied.

Parents/guardians shall follow these procedures for a child to be considered for early entrance.

1. Obtain an early entrance packet from one of the elementary schools in the Bainbridge Island School District. You can call the main office of the Bainbridge Island School District (BISD), (206) 842-4714, for contact information for our elementary schools.
2. Complete the application and parent questionnaire. Submit the documents to the school prior to June 1. Preadmission screening usually takes place in May and June before the end of the school year. (For families that move to Washington State during the summer, applications will be accepted through August 15.)
3. Request a reference letter from someone who is well acquainted with your child but is not related to any family member. The person providing this reference should know your child well enough that he or she can speak with expertise about your child's attributes and abilities. The reference letter should indicate whether this person recommends your child be schooled with children who will be a year older than he/she is and provides evidence to support exceptional ability in one or more of the above five developmental areas. This person providing the reference letter could be a

preschool teacher, day-care provider, youth leader, or religious teacher. The letter can be given to you or mailed to the school. You will be asked to sign a release of information so that the early entrance team may contact the person providing the reference letter, if needed, to obtain additional information.

4. Your child will attend two or three testing sessions with members of our early entrance team. At a minimum, the team will consist of the school counselor, school psychologist, and a certificated teacher. Parents are welcome to wait in the school office; parents will not accompany the child during the testing sessions.
5. After receiving the completed application and parent questionnaire, the school counselor will arrange a 20-30 minute testing session with your child. At the end of the session, the counselor will make a recommendation regarding the likelihood of your child being a viable candidate for early entrance.
6. If the parent chooses to continue the preadmission screening process, the parent must submit a nonrefundable preadmission screening fee of \$375.00. This screening fee is nonrefundable even if your child does not participate in the entire screening process. The preadmission screening fee pays for management of testing activities; time and effort of the involved teachers, counselor, and psychologist; and clerical support for early entrance screening processes.
7. The school psychologist will call to arrange a second appointment for testing of your child. The psychologist will meet with your child for 60-90 minutes and administer a series of tests to determine your child's readiness for school. It will take the psychologist a few days to evaluate the information gathered during the testing session. The psychologist will call the parent/guardian with the results of the testing and supply the parent/guardian with a written report.
8. The early entrance team may request additional information and/or a third testing session in which the child may meet with the counselor and a teacher. This third session will last 30-45 minutes.
9. The early entrance team will meet to consider the results of the testing sessions and the information submitted in the parent packet. The team can use these guidelines as criteria for evaluation:
  - Child demonstrates IQ of 125 or higher.
  - Child demonstrates strong to superior skills and development in all of the five listed areas:
    - physical, health and motor development;
    - social and emotional development;
    - approaches toward learning;
    - language, literacy and communication; and
    - cognition and general knowledge.
  - Child demonstrates academic abilities and skills equal to level 3 proficiency at the end of the first grading period.
  - Data indicates child will most likely excel this year and future years in BISD.The team will make a decision. One of the team members will contact the parents with the decision.

10. If recommended for early entrance, the child will be placed in a temporary grade and classroom assignment. The child will be evaluated by the staff within the first 30 calendar days following the student's first day of attendance. The principal will make the final determination regarding placement.
11. Full-day kindergarten will be granted on a space available basis in accordance with BISD kindergarten entrance policies.
12. If early entrance admission is denied and parents placed a deposit for full-day kindergarten, the school district will refund the deposit.
13. The parents may request a meeting with the counselor, the psychologist, and/or the principal to discuss the recommendations and decisions at any time during this process. The parents may appeal the decision to the superintendent or designee. The superintendent's decision will be final.