

### **Kindergarten Placement: District 34 Policy**

School District 34 follows Illinois School Code, which specifies that to enter kindergarten, children must be 5 years of age by September 1 of their kindergarten year.

### **First Grade Placement: District 34 Policy**

1. Children who enter first grade must be 6 years of age on or before September 1 of that school year

**OR**

2. Have successfully completed an **accredited** kindergarten program from **another state**.

### **First Grade Early Entrance Process: District 34 Policy**

Based upon an assessment of the child's readiness, a child will be allowed to attend first grade if he or she meets the following criteria:

1. The child attended a non-public preschool and will complete kindergarten at that same facility.
2. The child was taught by an appropriately certified kindergarten teacher.
3. The child will turn 6 years of age between September 2 and December 31 of his first grade year.

Please review the following information regarding early admission to first grade.

Parents of children who will attain the age of 6 years on or before December 31 of their first grade year, who have attended a non-public preschool and continued their education at that school through kindergarten, and who were taught by an appropriately certified teacher may apply for early entry to first grade. The Superintendent or designee shall assess the child's readiness to attend school as a first grade student and make the decision accordingly.

### **Procedural Information**

1. Early entry documents must be completed and returned to the District Administration Office one month prior to the first day of school.
2. All early entry documents must be completed in full.
3. An administrator or his/her designee will review the application.
4. Upon review of the application and verification that all conditions of early admission have been met, the administrator will make the decision regarding early admission to first grade and inform the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the final decision.
5. If approval for early entry is granted, the student will follow the regular registration policies.

**Documentation Required**

1. Completion of the Early Entry Application form.
2. Documentation of successful completion of 2 years of attendance at a non-public preschool and kindergarten.
3. Documents to be provided are:
  - a. Record of student’s full year attendance at a non-public preschool and full year attendance in the kindergarten program at the same school
  - b. A copy of the student’s report card indicating the student has successfully continued and completed a full year of kindergarten with periodic review of reading and math skills
  - c. Information regarding the non-public school’s program
  - d. Completion of the Non-Public Preschool/Kindergarten School form
  - e. Copy of the teacher’s appropriate certification
  - f. Completion of the confidential teacher recommendation
4. Additional assessment information to be obtained from D34:
  - a. Text level
  - b. Phonemic awareness data
  - c. Letter/sound knowledge
  - d. Fluency rate
  - e. Writing sample from a prompt
  - f. Indicators of math concepts

Board Policy 7:50AP Administrative Procedure-Early Admission to First Grade

<b>Actor</b>	<b>Requirements and Actions that Must be Completed</b>
All parents seeking early admission to first grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parents should contact their home school to register</li> <li>• Parents who wish to request early entrance must complete and submit an application one month prior to the beginning of the school year</li> <li>• The application includes student information, documentation of attendance at a non-public preschool and completion of kindergarten at the same school, attendance information for a complete year of both preschool and kindergarten, a copy of a report card indicating periodic assessment of the student’s performance in reading and math and the successful completion of a kindergarten program, appropriate teacher certification, information regarding the preschool and kindergarten curriculum, and teacher recommendation</li> </ul>
Administrator (response to above)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An administrator or his/her designee will review the application</li> <li>• The assessment of a child’s readiness for first grade will be a review of the application including key information regarding acquisition of reading and math skills</li> <li>• Upon verification that all conditions have been met, the administrator will make the decision regarding early admission to first grade and inform the parent(s) or guardian(s) of the final decision</li> <li>• If early admission to first grade is approved, the parent(s) will be directed to complete the registration process</li> </ul>