



Gilbert Public Schools

Early Entrance Screening Handbook

Arizona Department of Education

Kindergarten and First Grade Age Requirements

Kindergarten

According to the Arizona Education Code 15-821 (C), “a child is eligible for admission to kindergarten if the child is five years of age. A child is deemed five years of age if the child reached the age of five before September 1 of the current school year. The governing board may admit children who have not reached the required age as prescribed by this subsection if it is determined to be in the best interest of the children... Such children must reach the required age of five for kindergarten...by January 1 of the current school year.”

First Grade

According to the Arizona Education Code 15-821 (C), “...a child is eligible for admission to first grade if the child is six years of age. A child is deemed six years of age if the child reaches the age of six before September 1 of the current school year. The governing board may admit children who have not reached the required age as prescribed by this subsection if it is determined to be in the best interest of the children. For children entering the first grade, such determination shall be based upon one or more consultations with the parent, parents, guardian or guardians, the children, the teacher and the school principal. Such children must reach the required age... of six for first grade by January 1 of the current school year.”

Contact Information

Early Childhood Education

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Kindergarten and First Grade Placement for Gilbert Public Schools

Kindergarten

For admission to kindergarten, a child must be five years of age prior to September 1 of the current school year.

A child who turns five between September 1 and December 31 of the current school year will be assessed to determine readiness in order to qualify for early entrance into kindergarten.

First Grade

A student who has successfully completed kindergarten will be enrolled in First Grade. For admission to First Grade, a child must be six years of age prior to September 1 of the current school year.

A child who turns six between September 1 and December 31 of the current school year and has never been enrolled in kindergarten will be assessed to determine readiness in order to qualify for early entrance into first grade.

Screening Information

Kindergarten and first grade screenings will be held in June and July. Screenings for early entrance will not take place after these sessions.

Applications for screening can be completed online; a non-refundable \$90 assessment fee will be collected at that time. Once registration is completed, confirmation will be sent via email indicating the date, appointment time, and location for the child's screening. Results will be given after the completion of the screening.

Early entrance screenings measure a child's social and academic ability, predicting their success in kindergarten or first grade. The social screening takes place in a group setting, while the academic readiness assessment is individually administered in a computer lab with support and guidance from a certified teacher.

The social screening and the academic readiness assessment will be analyzed, and a decision will be made regarding the child's readiness. *This decision regarding initial placement is final with no appeal process, and children will not be rescreened.*

If within the first 30 school days, there is a concern regarding whether an early placement is appropriate for your child, a campus team may be convened to reconsider this decision.

The early entrance screening is a secure assessment, therefore we are unable to provide every test concept and question that will be given. However, the following basic skills are general indicators that show readiness for kindergarten.

Social Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Separates easily from parent/caregiver ● Follows directions given by teacher ● Sits appropriately and focuses on teacher and activity ● Communicates and answers questions when asked ● Advocates for self when in need of materials, additional information, or instructions ● Uses pencil, marker, and scissors properly ● Interacts with peers ● Converses with teacher and peers ● Uses toys and manipulatives appropriately ● Takes turns and shares

Academic Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Recognizes and identifies rhyming words ● Blends syllables (word parts) ● Segments syllables ● Blends phonemes (sounds) ● Recognizes and matches the initial and final phonemes ● Replaces the initial and final phonemes ● Recognizes medial vowel phonemes ● Recognizes and matches short and long vowel phonemes ● Identifies the number of words in a sentence (heard or seen) ● Recognizes the difference between words and graphemes (letters) ● Identifies and compares word length ● Matches lowercase and uppercase graphemes ● Recognizes the names of lowercase and uppercase graphemes ● Matches the graphemes to phonemes and the phonemes to graphemes. ● Differentiates shapes ● Matches numbers and objects ● Identifies numbers ● Completes sequence ● Composes and decomposes numbers using objects ● Measures using non-standard units

If your student has not yet demonstrated these skills, we recommend that you consider one of Gilbert Public Schools' preschool options:

- [Amanecer Developmental Preschool](#)
- [Building Blocks](#) (Kindercamp)
- [PreK/Kindergarten Prep](#) (K-Prep)
- [Toybox Preschool Program](#)

For further information regarding early entrance screening, please contact the Curriculum Department at 480-497-3477 during regular business hours.

*[The Florida Center of Reading Research \(FCRR\)](#) website has student activities designed **for teachers** to use with students to build early literacy skills. While this is a teacher resource, you may also find this site helpful.