

# **VALLEY VIEW SCHOOLS GUIDELINES FOR EARLY ENTRANCE FOR ADVANCED STUDENTS**

## **ILLINOIS STATE LAW**

According to Illinois Senate Bill 730 (signed into law on July 18, 1985) the age requirement for kindergarten enrollment is that the child must be five (5) years old on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the current school year. A school district may establish its own guidelines and assessment criteria to permit a child to enter school prior to the date established by the state law. Valley View School District has established such guidelines, which are presented in the following document.

## **VALLEY VIEW EARLY ENTRANCE WAIVERS**

Valley View District's admission requirements for students entering kindergarten and first grade are in accordance with the Illinois Education Code. When parents petition for their child to make early entry into either kindergarten or first grade, they are requesting a waiver of the Illinois Education Code and the general district policy for student enrollment. Therefore, since such a waiver is an exception to the state law and the general district policy:

- **A child must be within certain age requirements: Birthday by December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current school year.**
- **A child must demonstrate academic ability at least one year above his or her peer group.**

### **For potential kindergarten students, this includes the ability to:**

- Recognize both upper and lower case letters
- Name initial consonants sound (example: when given the words man, met, moon, child says they begin with m)
- Recognize numbers from 1-10
- Recognize basic colors
- Recognize basic shapes
- Count to 100 and recognize the numbers
- Read 42 common words

### **For potential first grade students, this includes the ability to:**

- Recognize initial and ending consonant sounds
- Recognize rhyming sounds
- Do simple math
- Count to 100 and recognize the numbers
- Score proficiency at the 9<sup>th</sup> stanine in Reading: (Scholastic Testing Service School Readiness Test) Gifted Ready 96-99
- Read a level-E book

- **A child must demonstrate high intellectual potential:**  
IQ of 120 or above (the average IQ is 100, 11% of the population has an IQ of 120)
- **A child must demonstrate physical development and:**
  - Large motor skills: Can hop, skip, and jump a rope
  - Small motor skills: Can copy upper and lower case letters (see example at end of packet)
  - Be able to form letters properly with no reversals
- **A child must demonstrate social emotional adjustment at least six months above his or her peer group and the ability to:**
  - Separate easily from parents (does not cry when parent leaves)
  - Sit quietly
  - Understand school rules
  - Interact in a group (no hitting or pushing)
  - Listen to the teacher and follow instructions

Exceptionally high performance in all assessment areas is necessary to provide reasonable assurance that advanced placement (early entrance to school) is in the best interest of the child, not only for the present school year but for future years as well.

**The testing fees are \$150 for initial screening and \$150 for additional testing for qualified students.**

## **CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTANCE**

Valley View District has set high assessment standards to determine if a child is truly achieving up to one year above his or her peer group and eligible for early entrance. The district will grant no exceptions for children who do not meet the minimum criteria on all approved assessment instruments.

### Age Requirement

For a child to be considered for early entrance, he or she must first meet the age requirement. The child must turn five years old after September 1st but on or before December 31st to be eligible for early entrance testing for kindergarten. The child must turn six years old after September 1st but on or before December 31st to be eligible for early entrance testing for first grade.

### High Intellectual Potential

For kindergarten and first grade, the Weschler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSI), full-scale score at **120 IQ** or above, administered by a certified school psychologist from the district-approved list.

## Physical and Social-Emotional Development

For kindergarten and first grade, Battelle Developmental Inventory Tests for Motor and Personal-Social Domains, six months above his other peer group.

Two additional testing sessions will be scheduled for each child who qualifies for a complete Early Entrance testing battery. These tests will be administered by designated district personnel and only to children who have met the intellectual screening score.

### **PROCEDURE TO PETITION FOR EARLY ENTRANCE**

1. ***From March - May 11, 2012, parents may obtain early entrance petition forms, guidelines, and data packets from the Enrollment Office at the Administrative Center.*** At this time the parents must present a certified birth certificate and must provide the necessary proof of residency to Enrollment Office staff. If a child does not meet the residency and age requirements, petition papers will not be provided to the parents.
2. All parents petitioning for early entrance for their child will be expected to attend an orientation conference. Please contact Elaine Meldrum at 630/759-2162 or send an email to [meldrumej@vvsd.org](mailto:meldrumej@vvsd.org) to schedule an appointment. During this meeting, a Coordinator will clarify the early entrance process and answer questions that parents may have about the process. Parents will be asked to sign a form stating that they have attended the meeting and understand the process for early entrance. **Only after this meeting may a parent contact the school psychologist and schedule the initial testing.** A copy of the signed form must be given to the psychologist before testing can begin. Conferences may be scheduled until May 11<sup>th</sup>. Parents must bring the completed entrance petition with them at this time. Testing by the school psychologist must be completed by May 14, 2012.
3. The district-designated Coordinator for early entrance will review the psychologists' reports. **Only exceptionally talented children scoring at or above 120 IQ on the WPPSI will be considered for additional testing.** The Coordinator will call parents of children who meet the minimum criterion to establish additional testing dates. (Parents of students who did not meet the criterion will be notified by letter.)  
**A fee of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) by cash or money order only is required from parents of students who will be tested further** The fee must be paid before testing dates can be set by the Coordinator. (Checks should be made payable to Valley View CUSD #365U.)
4. Approvals from the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent are obtained for those students being recommended for early admission.

5. Copies of all evaluation summary forms are sent to the appropriate Principals.
6. The Coordinator notifies parents of the decisions and schedules follow-up conferences to discuss the data (if parents choose to meet).

Parents of eligible (or ineligible) students and Principals of the attending schools will be notified by the last day of testing. Parents of children found to be eligible will be directed to the Enrollment Department to officially enroll the children.

7. **Eligible students will enter school for a probationary period of one quarter.** At this time, students will be reevaluated for continued placement. The district reserves the right to deny continuance in the program, if the child is making unsatisfactory progress or adjustment.
8. Students entering school under the Early Entrance Guidelines must follow the same procedures as all other students for future acceptance into the district's Gifted Program.