

**EARLY ENTRANCE: PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION**

**2023-2024**

**Early Entrance Procedures:**

Research on early entrance to school indicates that a few children are ready for a school experience at an earlier age than the state uniform entry age of five by **August 31**. It is the philosophy of the Stanwood-Camano School District that there may be a need for rare exceptions to the policy on entrance age. A child whose fifth birthday falls between **September 1 and November 30** may be eligible for kindergarten enrollment if that child is developmentally ready to succeed in the program.

Stanwood-Camano School District staff must assess early entrance candidates' readiness. Students will be assessed in at least five areas: 1) concepts; 2) motor; 3) social development; 4) language; and 5) self-help. Readiness criteria as specified by the D.I.A.L. (Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning) assessment tool will be used to make recommendations based on the child's performance. The nonrefundable fee for this assessment is the responsibility of the parent. An exemption can be made for families who are eligible for federal free or reduced meal status. Please ask about the special form necessary to qualify for this exemption.

A **“Request for Waiver of Entry Requirements for Kindergarten”** and **“Early Entrance Assessment Parent Questionnaire”** should be delivered to the Stanwood-Camano School District Administration & Resource Center, 26920 Pioneer Hwy., Stanwood, WA 98292, along with the **\$100 nonrefundable fee** (checks to be made out to: Stanwood-Camano School District) and candidate's **proof of birth date**.

For spring assessment, parents need to submit their request by **May 15, 2024**, assessments will be scheduled for May 22, 2024. For families moving into the district after **June 10**, parents need to submit their request by **August 15, 2022**, assessment schedule TBA.

**Early entrance testing will be held at The Stanwood-Camano School District Administration and Resource Center, 26920 Pioneer Hwy, Stanwood, WA 98292.**

**Spring assessments: May 22, 2024, beginning at 9:30 a.m. by appointment**

**August assessments: TBA**

**Communication of the Decision:**

The principal is responsible for a decision on early entrance. Notification of enrollment status will be given within ten (10) working days following the early entrance assessment. If a child qualifies for early entrance, the teacher and principal will observe the child throughout a six-week trial period. Staff will report to the parent on the child's adjustment and progress. If it is determined that early entrance for a particular child is not appropriate after all, the child may be withdrawn from the program after a conference with the parents. The principal will notify the parents of the final decision regarding their child's eligibility to continue in the kindergarten program.