



ROCHESTER MATH AND SCIENCE ACADEMY

POLICY 509.1

EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN

Adopted:	Revised:
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I. PURPOSE

Rochester Math and Science Academy (“RMSA” or “the School”) recognizes that some children may demonstrate the cognitive, academic, and social-emotional readiness for kindergarten before reaching the age otherwise required for admission under Minnesota law. This policy establishes the criteria and procedures under which RMSA will consider requests for early admission to kindergarten, consistent with Minnesota Statutes governing charter school enrollment.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Under Minn. Stat. § 120A.20, subd. 1(b), a person may not be admitted to a public school, including a charter school, as a kindergarten pupil unless the pupil is at least five years of age on or before September 1 of the calendar year in which the school year for which the pupil seeks admission commences.

Minn. Stat. § 124E.11(d) authorizes a charter school to establish and publish on its website a policy for admission of selected pupils at an earlier age, provided that policy is consistent with the enrollment process described in Minn. Stat. § 124E.11(b) and (c). RMSA adopts this policy under that authority. In developing its criteria and procedures, RMSA has also considered the best-practice framework reflected in Minn. Stat. § 124D.02, subd. 1, which governs early-admission policies for school districts.

This policy, and any subsequent amendments, will be published on RMSA’s website as required by Minn. Stat. § 124E.11(d).

III. ELIGIBILITY WINDOW

A child whose fifth birthday falls after September 1 and on or before [November 30] of the calendar year in which the school year for which admission is sought commences may be considered for early entrance to kindergarten under this policy.

IV. CRITERIA AND PROCEDURE FOR EARLY ENTRANCE

1. Request for Consideration

A parent or legal guardian must submit an Early Entrance to Kindergarten Request Form — available on RMSA’s website and through the front office — to the School by May 30th of the year preceding the desired enrollment year.

2. Early Childhood Screening

Before an early entrance request will be considered, the child must complete RMSA’s early childhood developmental screening under Minn. Stat. §§ 142D.09 to 142D.093. This screening assesses developmental milestones and general school readiness.

3. Comprehensive Readiness Assessment

Children under consideration for early entrance will undergo an assessment of cognitive ability, academic readiness, and social-emotional development. RMSA will arrange for these assessments to be conducted by qualified professionals, such as a licensed psychologist or trained assessment specialist, and may include standardized testing, structured observation, and parent/guardian input.

The parent/guardian is responsible for the cost of an assessment conducted through RMSA, subject to a sliding fee scale based on financial need. RMSA will also consider external evaluations submitted by the parent/guardian, provided they are conducted by an appropriately licensed professional and meet RMSA’s assessment standards.

4. Early Entrance Committee Review

An Early Entrance Committee — composed of [a kindergarten teacher, a school psychologist or licensed evaluator, and an administrator designated by the Executive Director] — will review the screening results, assessment results, and any parent/guardian input, and will make a recommendation regarding the child’s early entrance.

5. Notification and Decision

The family will be notified in writing of the Committee’s recommendation and RMSA’s decision within 10 school days of the Committee’s review.

6. Consistency with Charter Enrollment and Nondiscrimination Requirements

Consistent with Minn. Stat. § 124E.11(e), RMSA does not otherwise limit admission on the basis of intellectual ability, measures of achievement or aptitude, or athletic ability, except as expressly permitted for early kindergarten entrance under Minn. Stat. § 124E.11(d) and this policy. If the number of qualified early-entrance requests exceeds available capacity in a kindergarten classroom, grade level, or building, admission among qualified applicants will be determined by lottery in accordance with RMSA’s published enrollment and lottery policy and Minn. Stat. § 124E.11(b) and (c).

7. Appeal

A parent or legal guardian who disagrees with the Committee’s decision may submit a written appeal to the Executive Director within 10 calendar days of receiving the decision. The decision on appeal is final.

8. Trial Period

A child approved for early entrance will participate in a six-week trial period at the start of the school year. During this time, the child’s academic progress, social interactions, and overall adjustment to the kindergarten environment will be monitored by teaching staff. At the end of the trial period, RMSA will meet

with the parent/guardian to discuss the child's experience and determine whether continued enrollment in kindergarten is in the child's best interest. This determination will be made collaboratively by the [Executive Director/Principal], the classroom teacher, and, where involved, the school psychologist.

LEGAL REFERENCES

- Minn. Stat. § 120A.20 (Admission to Public School)
- Minn. Stat. § 124E.11 (Admission Requirements and Enrollment)
- Minn. Stat. § 124D.02, subd. 1 (best-practice reference for early-admission criteria)
- Minn. Stat. §§ 142D.09 to 142D.093 (Early Childhood Health and Developmental Screening)