

LIFE Prep Policy: EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN

Revised Dec. 14th 2020

- A. At the request of a parent, LIFE Prep will screen and evaluate students whose 5th birthday falls between September 2nd and October 1st for early admission Kindergarten. The purpose of the procedure is to determine whether the child's educational and personal/social development would be best served by early admission.
- B. LIFE Prep takes the position that most children will have the best chance for successful school experiences if they begin their schooling with their own age group and the usual time of entrance into Kindergarten. A child will be considered a good candidate for early admission to Kindergarten if the child will successfully compete, without substantial stress, with the most mature children entering that grade. Only children with high cognitive abilities, strong academic, language and motor skills, and mature social/emotional development by scoring a 80% or higher on the Early Admittance exam, will be recommended for early admission.
- C. The Early Admittance exam is aligned with Kindergarten academic standards by assessing the student in social emotional skills, early literacy skills, numeracy skills, fine motor skills, and language skills. Parents are notified by the proctor of the results of the Early Admittance exam after completion.
- D. Parents who wish for their child to be considered for Early Admission to Kindergarten at LIFE Prep should follow the following steps:
 - a. An "Application for Early Admission to Kindergarten" along with the standard application and a copy of the child's birth certificate must be returned to the school by the published New Student Application Deadline.
 - b. Upon acceptance of your application, bring your child to an appointment arranged by school staff by the school lottery date for classroom observation and individual screening and assessment.
- E. Screening and Evaluation will consist of the following:

- a. The prospective students will spend up to a half-day in Kindergarten so as to allow a teacher to observe for social/emotional and school readiness, including following directions, interacting with others, dealing with frustration and anger.
- b. For Kindergarten the student's academic readiness skills will be assessed, including listening skills, attention, concentration, and early literacy and numeracy skills.
- c. Fine and gross motor skills will be assessed. For Kindergarten this includes being able to copy simple shapes, print names, letters and numbers.
- d. For Kindergarten student's language skills will be assessed, including strong vocabulary, expressive and receptive language skills.

Upon completion of all LIFE Prep will inform parents whether or not the child has qualified for early admittance Kindergarten. In the event that the child is accepted, the period of time from the start of the school year through the first parent-teacher conference will be considered a trial period. At any time during that period if either the parents or school staff determine that the child's adjustment to Kindergarten is unsatisfactory, the child may be withdrawn.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. §124E.11 (Admission Requirements and Enrollment) Minn. Stat. §§123B.36-.37 (Authorized Fees; Prohibited Fees)

LIFE Prep ENROLLMENT POLICY

F. PURPOSE The purpose of this policy is to explain the application and enrollment process at LIFE Prep so that families will have information to make decisions regarding their children's school attendance.

G. POLICY STATEMENT This policy establishes guidelines for admission into LIFE Prep that are consistent with the admission requirements of Minnesota Statutes §124E and other applicable laws.

H. GENERAL ENROLLMENT PROVISIONS

- a. LIFE Prep is a public school and pursuant to state law, must enroll an eligible student who submits a timely application, unless the number of applications exceeds the capacity of the program, class, grade level, or building. When that occurs, students will be accepted by lot and admitted as further described in section VI.
- b. Before admitting a student on the lottery list, LIFE Prep shall give preference for enrollment to siblings of an enrolled student and to a foster child of that pupil's parents.
- c. Before accepting students by lot, LIFE Prep will give preference to enrolling children of the school's staff before accepting other pupils by lot.
- d. LIFE Prep shall not discriminate against any student based on race, color, ethnicity, sex, age, national origin, ancestry, religion or creed, status with regard to public assistance, sexual orientation, disability, intellectual ability, prior measures of achievement or aptitude, athletic ability, or for any other basis that would be unlawful for a public or charter school.
- e. LIFE Prep shall not seek any information about any applicant that may be used to discriminate against

the applicant in either school's policies or governing laws This does not preclude the school from seeking such information for a lawful purpose about a student after the student has been admitted.

IV.

F. Notwithstanding any other provision of this policy to the contrary, in compliance with the requirements of the Minnesota Department of Education LIFE Prep shall not select students based on religious preference.

G. LIFE Prep will not distribute any services or goods of value to students, parents or guardians as an inducement, term or condition of enrolling a student unless required to do so by Minnesota's Pupil Fee Law.

APPLICATION AND ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES

- e. Interested families will submit applications up until the lottery application deadline established each calendar year.
- f. Acceptance of applications for any given school year will begin in January during the prior school year.
- g. Once the application period is closed, if there are more applicants than spots available, all timely applications will be included in a random lottery which preferences first the siblings of currently enrolled students, and second the children of staff members.
 - 1. This lottery will be held no later than seven business days after the student application deadline, sufficiently prior to the annual April 1 deadline for notifying the students' district of residence for transportation services.
 - 2. Written notice of the date of the lottery is communicated in

letter form to current families and posted on the school's website.

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