



## **EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN POLICY & SCREENING**

- A. At the request of a parent, Gateway STEM Academy will screen and evaluate students whose 5<sup>th</sup> (for Kindergarten) birthday falls between September 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 18 for early admission to 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. Gateway STEM Academy 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 will be recommended for early admission. Those children appropriate for early admission are exceptional in their level of development.
- C. Parents who wish for their child to be considered for Early Admission to Kindergarten at Gateway STEM Academy should follow the following steps:
  - 1. Complete 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.
  - 2. 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.
  - 3. 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.
    - e. For Kindergarten, the student must be completely toilet trained, including at naptime.

Upon completion of all, Gateway STEM Academy will inform parents whether or not the child has qualified for early admittance to 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)