



## Early Kindergarten Enrollment and FAQ's

A child who will turn five between October 1<sup>st</sup> and October 31<sup>st</sup> of the current school year, AND is a sibling of a CURRENT ACA student may be allowed to enter kindergarten if the child passes an early entrance screening. **We do have a limited number of spots available in this program.**

### **What is the age requirement for regular kindergarten?**

Students entering kindergarten for the upcoming school year must be five years old on or before September 30<sup>th</sup> of the current school year.

### **How can I apply for Early Kindergarten?**

It's the same application for every grade. You can apply online at [www.azcharter.com/apply](http://www.azcharter.com/apply) or you can pick up a paper app at our Front Office.

### **If my child is chosen in the Early Kinder Open Enrollment lottery does that mean they are accepted?**

Early Kindergarten applications that are chosen in the Open Enrollment lottery are "accepted pending the results of their screening".

### **When is the screening?**

Screening dates will be between April and June.

### **Can I wait and request screening for my child in July or later?**

It is our intention to complete all early entrance screenings by the end of April.

### **How long is the screening?**

The screening will last approximately one hour.

### **Can I prepare my child for the screening?**

No. The screeners will be looking for readiness skills that come naturally to children. You can't prepare for this type of screening as you might for a traditional test.

### **Will I stay with my child during the screening?**

No. However, we will ask that you remain on the site.

### **What is the cost of the screening?**

There is a \$30 screening fee per child. This covers the cost of screening materials and screener time.

### **Is the screening fee refundable?**

If you decide not to have your child complete the screening, please contact us no later than the day of the screening. Your fee will be refunded. However, the fee will not be refunded in the case of no-shows who do not contact us or for those children who do not pass the screening and are not accepted for early entrance.

**Who will evaluate the results of the screening and determine if my child can enter kindergarten early?**

A team of professional educators will work together to administer the various components of the screening. Your child may interact with two to three adults during the process. These teams will then score the evaluation components using the scoring rubrics that accompany the screening materials and make a group decision on each child screened.

**When do I find out the results of the screening?**

Our screeners are not able to give their results of the screen until reviewed by the team. Someone will be in touch with you within 24 hours of your child being screened.

**Can I appeal the decision of the Screening Team if my child is not accepted for early entrance?**

No. Every effort is being made to ensure that the screening process is fair and equitable for all participants. Decisions as to those who are ready for kindergarten entrance will be made by a team of professionals and we ask that parents honor the team's decision. Details of the screen are not shared before or after whether the child is accepted or not. The screener might share areas that could be worked on, but will not go item by item.

**Is preschool required for my child to qualify for early entrance into kindergarten?**

Preschool is not a requirement of early entrance.

**Are there any fees involved if my child is accepted into Early Kindergarten?**

There are not any fees or tuition associated with our Early Kindergarten program.