



## 2023 Early Kindergarten Consideration

Early Kindergarten (EK) is available to students based on Kindergarten readiness in all academic areas including social-emotional development. Parents/Guardians should follow the application guidelines listed here to request consideration for placement on the EK roster.

Early Kindergarten has several similarities to the traditional kindergarten classroom.

- Both programs require students to be 5 years old by September 15, 2023.
- Both programs are in session five days a week.
- Both programs follow Kindergarten curriculum.
- Both programs are required to administer the same state/federal Kindergarten assessments.

Differences:

- The EK program follows Kindergarten standards, but typically spends more time with foundational academic and social skill acquisition and practice.
- The EK classroom sometimes has fewer students than a Kindergarten classroom.

### How do I request that my child is considered for the Early Kindergarten program at Ballard, and how is placement determined?

1. Parents/Guardians must complete the ASQ-SE assessment and return to Ballard West via the postal service, email, or drop-off at West Elementary. (Please contact your preschool provider, the website, or Ballard West to request a form.)
2. An EK placement committee consisting of a Kindergarten teacher, your child's local preschool teacher, West Elementary Principal, Ballard Preschool Director, and the Ballard Director of Teaching and Learning will make placement decisions based on the ASQ-SE form, preschool recommendations, and data collected during preschool from GOLD and IGDIs assessments.
3. The placement committee will make a recommendation for Kindergarten or Early Kindergarten and that information will be emailed to all families who requested EK consideration. (Late May or early June)

### **What are my options if my child is recommended to be placed on the Early Kindergarten roster?**

1. Accept the EK placement via email.
2. Decline the recommendation for EK and request your child to be on a Kindergarten roster.

### **What is my option at Ballard West if my child IS NOT recommended to be placed on the Early Kindergarten roster?**

1. Enroll your child in the Kindergarten program.

### **What are ideas/options that families have considered if Early Kindergarten was NOT recommended and they didn't want to send their child to Kindergarten yet?**

1. Enroll in a 5-year-old preschool program.
2. Repeat 4-year-old preschool.
3. Enroll in an out of district Early Kindergarten program.