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 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.