



Policy # 54. Early Admission to Kindergarten

**Adopted by the St. Cloud Math and Science Academy Board of Directors:
March 30, 2022**

I. PURPOSE

State law requires that Kindergarten students must attain the age of five years on or prior to September 1 of the enrollment year unless the local school board has adopted a policy for early enrollment in select cases. SCMSA aims to provide all students with a rigorous, rich, and challenging education. Some students with exceptionally advanced abilities may require placement beyond their traditionally scheduled grade level. The purpose of this policy is to explain criteria for early admission to Kindergarten at SCMSA Academy.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY:

SCMSA Academy recognizes that beginning school before the age of five may be appropriate for some children and therefore allows early enrollment in kindergarten in select cases.

III. OTHER CONDITIONS

To be considered for early admission to kindergarten, a student must turn five years old on or before September 30th of that kindergarten year.

Additionally, to be eligible for early admission consideration, components 1 through 3 must be completed by the enrollment deadline. The information will be reviewed and components 4 and 5 will be discussed at that time. If components 1 through 3 are not completed by the enrollment deadline, the child will not be included in the admission lottery. If components 1 through 3 are met, component 5 must be completed within one week following the enrollment deadline, before the admission lottery.

1) St. Cloud Math and Science Academy requires the child undergo a comprehensive psychological, developmental, and academic evaluation performed by a licensed psychologist, school psychologist, or relevant school officials responsible for academic testing. The school may request to see results for a variety of assessments. The child must achieve a measured score in the 90-109 range on a nationally-normed standardized intellectual and/or academic assessment test appropriate for 5-year-olds such as but not limited to:

- Woodcock-Johnson Tests of Early Cognitive and Academic Development
- Wechsler Intelligence Scales for Children
- Stanford-Binet Intellectual Assessment Scale (5th Edition)
- Stanford-Binet, Form L-M,
- Reynolds Intellectual Assessment Scales

- Kaufman Assessment Battery for Children (2nd Edition)
- Differential Ability Scales

2) The child must be recommended for early admission to kindergarten by the psychologist and/or school official responsible for testing. The parent/guardian is solely responsible for the cost of any early evaluations. This requirement may be waived upon mutual agreement of the parents and faculty of St. Cloud Math and Science Academy.

3) The child must have attended a formal preschool or other non-home educational setting and must be recommended by the staff of this other program for early admission to kindergarten through our short questionnaire about the child's development. The child's teacher must complete SCMSA Academy's Child Development Questionnaire. The parent should give the questionnaire to their child's teacher with a stamped addressed envelope so that the teacher can return the questionnaire directly to SCMSA Academy.

4) The child must be physically and developmentally capable of the demands and activities of the school day (i.e. toilet, lunch, physical education routines, following a sequence of directions, etc.) SCMSA Academy may ask the parent to provide physician certification for this capability.

5) The child must undergo a skills and developmental screening based on the curriculum of our Kindergarten program. SCMSA Academy is looking for 70- 80% mastery of SCMSA Kindergarten year-end benchmarks in order to approve early admission. This must happen within a week of the enrollment deadline before the lottery is held.

IV. PLACEMENT DECISIONS

Decisions for consideration for Early Admission to Kindergarten will be made by the school administration with input from the school psychologist and Kindergarten teachers. The decision of the administration is final. Once a student is enrolled in the school, the student is considered enrolled in the school until the student formally withdraws or is expelled under the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act in sections 121A.40 to 121A.56.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 120A.20 (Early entrance into kindergarten)
 Minn. Stat. § 121A.17 (State screening program)
 Minn. Stat. § 121A.15 (medically acceptable immunizations)
 Minn. Stat. § 124E.11, paragraph (g)

Local Resources: Minnesota Department of Education, www.education.state.mn.us