

Early Entrance to Kindergarten Waiver Application Procedure

North Newton School Corporation

The North Newton School Corporation believes that as a general rule, it is beneficial for students to be five years or older to enter kindergarten. The expectations of today's kindergartners have increased exponentially over the past several years, particularly with the state's adoption of the common core standards and assessments aimed at identifying literacy targets. The corporation recognizes that there are some exceptional children who are developmentally, academically and socially ready to enter kindergarten and for whom teachers feel would be successful in kindergarten.

Any child who is five years of age on or before August 1st is eligible to attend Kindergarten in the state of Indiana (IC20-33-2-7). Parents of a child who will not be five by August 1st have the right to appeal the district to allow their child to enter kindergarten early [IC 20-33-2-7(a)].

Parents who wish to appeal for a waiver for early entrance to kindergarten whose child turns 5 after August 1st must complete the Early Entrance Waiver Application and submit the completed forms to the North Newton School Corporation Superintendent by April 1st of the desired enrollment year.

A kindergarten screening committee consisting of kindergarten teachers, administrators and other school personnel will coordinate kindergarten testing after April 1st. Parents will be contacted to attend the screenings and parents will be asked to bring the student to the school testing location. This testing will provide the committee with feedback regarding your child's developmental, social and academic preparation. Based on observations, feedback from assessments, information collected from parents and the findings of the committee, a decision will be made based on the information at hand. An acceptance or denial letter will be sent to parents after the committee's decision. Our goal is to help ensure that each North Newton student is successful and we hope that whatever decision is made is honored by the parents in a supportive and collaborative vein. Rushing to enter kindergarten can have adverse effects on students and may not be in the child's best interest.

Early entrance kindergartners are expected to be potty trained.

Kindergarten Early Entrance Waiver Application

North Newton School Corporation

Child's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Male ____ Female ____

Name of school your child will attend if granted a waiver: _____

Please attach the following to your application:

- Copy of child's birth certificate
- Copy of child's immunization records
- A completed letter of recommendation from your child's preschool teacher, if applicable, that states your child's academic, social and/or developmental milestones that would attest to his/her success in kindergarten. Should include specific examples of your child's academic achievement levels, evidence of advanced maturity, and evidence of social skills appropriate for a kindergarten classroom setting.
- A copy of your child's current preschool progress report
- A letter from you stating why you believe it is in your child's best interest now and in the future, to enter kindergarten at age four. Please give specific examples that show your child's level of advancement-socially, emotionally, developmentally and academically-beyond other children of the same age.
- Sign the consent for testing form on the bottom of page two of this application.

Father's Name: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Address: _____ Home Phone: _____

Cellphone: _____ Email: _____

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

*This completed form and all attachments must be received by April 1st via email, regular mail or delivery to the North Newton School Corporation Administration Office at 310 S. Lincoln Street, PO Box 8, Morocco, IN 47963. Applications should be sent to the attention of the Superintendent, Dr. Cathy Rowe or by email to crowe@nn.k12.in.us. Parents will be notified of the committee's decision by July 1st. Please do not attempt to register for kindergarten or pay textbook fees until you receive notification this waiver has been approved.

Questions for Early Entrance to Kindergarten Waiver

Information gleaned from parents about a child's experiences from birth to school is very important in helping to make a good decision for your child's possible early entrance to kindergarten. Please answer the following questions with as much detail as possible and feel free to use the back page or add pages.

1. Explain any organized group activities your child has been involved in outside the home (ie Sunday School, pre-school, sports, etc.)
2. Describe your child's interest and exposure to books.
3. When your child is playing, how much time is he/she likely to spend on one activity? Does your child appear to be a leader or a follower?
4. How does your child react to a new or strange situation?
5. What are your child's major strengths and/or weaknesses?
6. What types of activities is your child interested in?

Parent Release for Testing

I hereby grant permission for testing to be done to aid in determining my child's readiness for school.

Parent's Signature

Date