

Important Information about the Early Admission to Kindergarten Process

Anne Arundel County Public Schools uses the SESAT 1 Kindergarten Test to determine early admission eligibility. SESAT otherwise known as the Stanford Early School Achievement is part of the Stanford Achievement Test series that tests students from Kindergarten to 12th grade. The questions are multiple choice and have three possibilities. The scores for each subtest are reported in stanines rather than as numerical totals or letter grades. (*Stanine* stands for *standard nine* and indicates nine statistical units from a scale of 1 to 9. These units are used to indicate a performance level on a psychological or educational test.) Students must receive a complete battery stanine score of an 8 or higher to qualify for early admission to kindergarten. Students must complete the entire assessment, within the expected time frame on the day of testing, to be considered for early admission to kindergarten.

Each subtest is described below:

1. Sounds and Letters: Students are required to demonstrate the ability to recognize letters and match letters with the sounds the letter represents.
2. Word Reading: Students are required to demonstrate the ability to identify the printed name for a picture after the name has been pronounced, identify the printed name for a picture of an object, and identify the printed word of a word that has been pronounced.
3. Mathematics: Students are required to demonstrate an understanding of the meaning and use of numbers, the various representations of numbers and their relationships, and describe and compare patterns and shapes.
4. Environment: Students are required to demonstrate knowledge of common, age-appropriate science and social studies knowledge.
5. Listening to Words and Stories: Students are required to demonstrate listening comprehension by answering oral questions after listening to a story that is read to them.

Testing Environment

- Your child will be assessed by a trained AACPS employees
- Each testing group will have a trained test examiner and a testing proctor
- Testing will occur in a small group with 4 to 6 students per group
- The assessment usually takes approximately three to four hours to complete
- Breaks will be provided as needed during the assessment
- Parents are welcome to wait in the parking lot or leave a cell phone number that they can be reached at during testing
- If parents leave the parking lot, they should be no further than 10-15 minutes away from the school
- Parents cannot accompany their child in the testing room or wait in the school building.
- Test examiners and proctor will wear a mask throughout the test
- Tables and chairs will be sanitized before testing
- Children are required to wear a parent provided mask during the entire testing session
- Hand sanitizer is available for student use during the testing
- Students will be given a pencil to take the test; pencils will not be shared between students

Testing will be Discontinued if:

- A student refuses to wear his/her mask during the testing
- A student refuses to leave his/her parent and enter the school building with the test examiner and proctor
- The student hits, kicks, or assaults the test examiner or proctor in anyway
- The student refuses to continue taking the test despite encouragement from the test examiner and proctor

If testing is discontinued, a student may not retake the early admission to kindergarten assessment.