

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR ENGLISH-LANGUAGE EDUCATION

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- English-language education is intended for pupils who live in Espoo. Applicants living in other municipalities cannot be admitted to English-language education. An exception to this rule is those whose admission is based on a cooperation agreement between municipalities, granting them equal consideration with Espoo residents.
- Applications for English-language education must be submitted within the application periods defined annually by the City of Espoo. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be considered.
- Admission is based on either successfully passing the entrance examination or prior studies in English-language education.
- The entrance examination dates are determined annually by the City of Espoo. Each applicant may only take the entrance examination once per year.
- If the applicant is unable to take the examination due to being ill on the day in question, a new examination may be arranged. Guardians must inform the principal of the school providing English-language education about the situation before the examination starts and present a medical certificate proving the applicant's illness either before the examination starts or immediately upon receiving the certificate. Only applicants who were unable to attend the original entrance examination due to illness may take a new examination.
- Applicants who meet the admission criteria but are not admitted due to the limited number of study places will be put on a waiting list. Those who apply for a temporary study place are put on the waiting list first, in order of the length of their prior studies in English-language education. If applicants have spent the same amount of time in English-language education, their order on the list is determined by a draw. Applicants who passed the entrance examination are placed next on the waiting list in the order of their total score. If study places become available, applicants are admitted from the waiting list in order until the end of August, after which the waiting list expires.
- Applicants who move to Espoo during the school year can be considered for admission after they have moved. If an applicant living in another municipality or country plans to move to Espoo before the start of the next school year, they can be considered similarly to Espoo residents. The admission decision is conditional and will only take effect if the applicant moves to Espoo by the deadline set annually by the City of Espoo and their address is updated in the Population Information System in time.
- As a rule, applicants are admitted to English-language education for the duration of the grades available at the school. Those who apply for a temporary study place are admitted for a maximum of three school years.
- Applicants who have attended school abroad are placed in an age-appropriate grade based on their year of birth. Applicants who have attended school in Finland are placed in a grade according to their most recent school certificate.

- Pupils admitted to English-language education are not eligible for school transport benefit (such as school transport or travel card).
- The number of pupils admitted to English-language education is decided annually by the Growth and Learning Committee.
- The school board of a school offering English-language education may decide on additional admission criteria, such as the scoring of the entrance examination.
- Compulsory education begins in the year a child turns seven. Starting school a year earlier requires special permission for early admission to basic education.

2. ADMISSION TO ENGLISH-LANGUAGE EDUCATION STARTING FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

2.1. Admission to 1st grade

Pupils are selected based on the entrance examination held in the spring. The examination consists of two parts:

- 1) English language section (0–30 points)
- 2) Linguistic competence section (0–45 points), which the applicant completes in either Finnish or English, as chosen by their guardian.

In order to be admitted to English-language education, the applicant must achieve at least the minimum score in each section and the minimum total score. Applicants are selected in order of their total examination score (0–75 points). If applicants have the same total score, their ranking will be decided by a draw.

2.2. Admission to 7th grade

Pupils who have completed 6th grade in English-language education in Espoo may continue on to 7th grade without reapplying. If places remain available, new applicants can be admitted based on the entrance examination (0–100 points) arranged in the spring.

To be admitted, the applicant must achieve at least the minimum total score. Applicants are selected in order of their total examination score (0–100 points). If applicants have the same total score, their ranking will be decided by a draw.

2.3. Admission to grades 2–6 and 8–9

Applicants are selected for available study places based on an entrance examination held before the start of the next school year.

To be admitted, the applicant must achieve at least the minimum total score required for the grade in question. Applicants for each grade are selected based on their total examination score. If applicants have the same total score, their ranking will be decided by a draw.

3. ADMISSION TO ENGLISH-LANGUAGE EDUCATION DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

Applicants moving to Espoo during the school year can be admitted to grades 1–9 based on an entrance examination. The entrance examination will be held once they have moved to Espoo. The school principal will set the examination date. If there are several applicants, the examination will be held on the same day for everyone.

To be admitted, the applicant must achieve at least the minimum total score required for the grade in question. Applicants are selected based on their total examination score. If applicants have the same total score, their ranking will be decided by a draw.

The admitted pupil must start school within a week of receiving the admission decision, or the decision will expire. This does not apply to school holidays.

The principal may exceed the determined number of pupils for their school by 1–2 applicants per group who meet the admission criteria if it is feasible in terms of facilities and the proper organisation of teaching.

4. ADMISSION TO TEMPORARY STUDY PLACES

Temporary study places are intended for pupils who have moved to Espoo from abroad and are living here temporarily. A pupil can only be admitted to a temporary study place once during basic education.

Admission is based on prior studies in English-language education. Applicants are admitted to temporary study places for a maximum of three school years. The admission process follows, where applicable, the general principles of the admission criteria for English-language education outlined under 'General Principles'.

Those applying for a temporary study place in a school offering English-language education must meet the following criteria:

1. The applicant has attended English-language education for at least one school year immediately before applying, or in the case of those applying to 1st grade, for the duration of the school year during which they apply. Guardians must submit proof of these studies as part of the application.
2. The applicant does not have the ability or need to study in Finnish due to their temporary residence in Espoo.

A pupil who has been admitted to a temporary study place cannot automatically be admitted to a permanent place in English-language education if their temporary stay in Espoo later becomes permanent. In such cases, they must reapply. Admission will be based on the entrance examination.