

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR BILINGUAL EDUCATION (FINNISH-ENGLISH)

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Bilingual education (Finnish–English) is for pupils living in Espoo. You can apply to study from anywhere in Espoo.

The application period for bilingual education (Finnish–English) is open annually at times determined by the City of Espoo. Applications submitted after the deadline shall be dismissed as late arrivals. If the application requires additional documents or applications, the guardian must submit them within the set deadline.

Pupils are admitted based on either a passed entrance examination or previous studies in bilingual education (Finnish–English). An applicant who has been in English-language education immediately before the application period may be selected if the applicant's Finnish language skills are sufficient for bilingual (Finnish–English) teaching.

Entrance examinations are organised at times determined annually by the City of Espoo. You can only take the entrance examination once during the same year.

Compulsory education begins in the year when the child turns seven. If the child applying to the 1st grade of bilingual education (Finnish–English) is not yet at compulsory education age, the guardian must apply for a separate permission for their child to start school one year earlier than provided by law.

If the applicant is sick on the day of the entrance examination and cannot participate in it, a new entrance examination day may be arranged for the applicant. The guardian must notify the principal/director of the school organising the entrance examination and providing bilingual education (Finnish–English) of the situation before the entrance examination begins and provide a statement by a doctor or other healthcare professional (such as public health nurse) proving the applicant's illness before the entrance examinations begins or immediately after receiving the statement. Only those applicants who were sick on the actual day of the entrance examination and were therefore unable to participate in the entrance examination can take a new entrance examination. The power to decide on arranging a new entrance examination day lies with the principal/director of the school.

Applicants are selected for bilingual education (Finnish–English) for the duration of the grades taught at the school mainly from the beginning of the school year. In Espoo, 6th grade pupils of bilingual education (in a primary school that teaches grades 1–6) may continue in the teaching in question from the beginning of grade 7 until the end of basic education, provided that their guardian has chosen all schools providing the education as their application preference.

Students admitted for bilingual education (Finnish–English) can only be admitted to another school providing the education based on a particularly weighty reason related to pupil welfare or the pupil's state of health. The guardian must present an expert statement (such as a doctor or psychologist) or a multidisciplinary report prepared at the school to demonstrate the reason in question.

An applicant admitted for bilingual education (Finnish–English) is not entitled to the school travel benefit (public transport ticket, transport subsidy or school transport) and their younger sibling does not have the right to get in the same school based on sibling criterion when applying to the local school.

Applicants moving to Espoo during the school year are admitted after they have moved. If an applicant residing in another municipality intends to move to Espoo before the start of school in the following school year, the applicant can be taken into account like those living in Espoo. You must mention the move on the application form. Once admitted, the applicant will receive a conditional decision, and it will only enter into force if the applicant moves to Espoo by the deadline date the City of Espoo sets for each year and if their home address is visible in the Population Information System at the time.

Applicants living in other municipalities can only be admitted if there are still vacant study places after the applicants who meet the Espoo criteria.

The new teaching groups and the minimum and maximum number of pupils admitted for bilingual education (Finnish–English) are determined annually by the Board.

1. ADMISSION TO 1ST GRADE

Admission is based on an entrance examination. The entrance examination consists of two sections:

- 1) Finnish language skills test (0–45 points)
- 2) A test of basic concepts and language proficiency in English (0–30 points).

The applicant must get at least 35 points as the overall score in the entrance examination.

Applicants are admitted in the order of the overall score (0–75). When the applicants' overall score is the same, the order is determined by the sibling criterion (an applicant's sibling is a pupil of the school's bilingual education in a year other than the highest). If these applicants also meet the sibling criterion, their order is determined by drawing lots.

Applicants who meet the admission criteria but are not admitted due to the limited number of study places will form a waiting list in an order based on their overall scores on the entrance examination and so that applicants from Espoo take precedence. As study places become vacant, applicants will be admitted following the order of the waiting list until the end of August, at which point the waiting list will expire.

2. ADMISSION TO 7TH GRADE

Applicants are admitted in the following order of priority:

- 1) Applicants who are in the 6th grade of bilingual education (Finnish–English) in Espoo.

If the number of applicants is higher than the number of student places, the order is determined by the sibling criterion (an applicant's sibling is a pupil of the school's bilingual education in a year other than the highest). If these applicants also meet the sibling criterion, their order is determined by drawing lots.

- 2) Applicants who are in the 6th grade of English-language education in Espoo.

If the number of applicants is higher than the number of study places, the order is determined by the sibling criterion (an applicant's sibling is a pupil of the school's bilingual education in a year other than the highest). If these applicants also meet the sibling criterion, their order is determined by drawing lots.

- 3) Applicants who are in the 6th grade of bilingual education (Finnish–English) elsewhere in Finland.

The guardian must present a certificate of enrolment in the education in question. If the number of applicants is higher than the number of study places, the order is determined by the sibling criterion (an applicant's sibling is a pupil of the school's bilingual education in a year other than the highest). If these applicants also meet the sibling criterion, their order is determined by drawing lots.

- 4) Other applicants are admitted on the basis of the entrance examination.

The entrance examination consists of two sections:

- 1) English test (0–100 points)
- 2) Finnish test (0–50 points).

The applicant must get at least 75 points as the overall score. Applicants are admitted in the order of the overall score (0–150 points) they have received from the entrance examination. If the applicants' overall score is the same, the order is determined by the sibling criterion (an applicant's sibling is a pupil of the school's bilingual education in a year other than the highest). If these applicants also meet the sibling criterion, their order is determined by drawing lots.

Applicants who meet the admission criteria but are not admitted due to the limited number of study places will form a waiting list in an order based on their overall scores on the entrance examination and so that applicants from Espoo take precedence. As study places become vacant, applicants will be admitted following the order of the waiting list until the end of August, at which point the waiting list will expire.

3. ADMISSION TO GRADES 2–6 and 8–9

Admission is based on the applicant's previous studies in bilingual education (Finnish–English) immediately before applying. An applicant who has been in English-language education immediately before the application period may be admitted if the applicant's Finnish language skills are sufficient for bilingual education (Finnish–English).

An applicant moving from abroad who speaks Finnish as their mother tongue and who has participated in early childhood education and care or teaching in English that is equivalent to basic education in Finland based on which their English skills are at a sufficient level may also be admitted for bilingual education (Finnish–English). The applicant must present a certificate/report of such studies.

If there are more applicants than student places, the sibling criterion determines the order between the applicants. If these applicants also meet the sibling criterion, their order is determined by drawing lots.

4. ADMISSION TO GRADES 1–9 DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

Admission is based on the applicant's previous studies in bilingual education (Finnish–English) immediately before applying. An applicant who has been in English-language education immediately before the application period may be admitted if the applicant's Finnish language skills are sufficient for bilingual education (Finnish–English).

An applicant moving from abroad who speaks Finnish as their mother tongue and who has participated in early childhood education and care or teaching in English that is equivalent to basic education in Finland based on which their English skills are at a sufficient level may also be admitted for bilingual education (Finnish–English). The applicant must attach a certificate/report of such studies to their application.

If the number of applicants is higher than the number of student places, the order is determined by the sibling criterion (an applicant's sibling is a pupil of the school's bilingual education in a year other than the highest). If these applicants also meet the sibling criterion, their order is determined by drawing lots.

Applicants admitted for bilingual education (Finnish–English) must start school within one week of receiving the decision. Otherwise, the decision will expire. School holidays are an exception to this rule.

Applicants living in other municipalities will not be admitted in the middle of the school year.