

## What Parents Need To Consider Prior To Registration

### What extent am I willing to participate in my child's education?

Parent involvement is a crucial element in student success. Early Light asks that academy families volunteer a minimum of 35 hours total per academic year. *Hours are per family not per student.* In addition, all parents will become voting members of the Student, Parent, Teacher Organization (SPTO). The SPTO will elect an executive committee and chairpersons to be involved in such activities as fundraising and volunteer coordination.

### How comfortable am I with the use of advanced technology in the classroom?

Early Light will use SmartBoards and computers as tools in the classroom and not as a substitute for teachers. In addition to technology, Early Light will incorporate collaborative learning and hands-on projects.

### What distance am I comfortable traveling to place my child in school?

Early Light is a public charter school with no set school boundaries. As a commuter school, Early Light will work to coordinate efficient pick-up and drop-off with parents, students and teachers. Parents are responsible for getting their children to the school on time. No bus service will be provided.

### What special needs does my child have, and will this school address them satisfactorily?

Early Light will provide all services outlined in an Individualized Education Program (IEP). The IEP drives services as it does in all public schools. A special education teacher will work to provide the services needed and to coordinate with the general education teachers. As Early Light will be setting up school next year, it will take a while to have set routines which is not uncommon for any school just opening.

### Do my educational goals for my child align with Early Light's Mission?

Early Light seeks to balance the study of the past with a vision of the future by providing students with a rich, interactive learning experience that will not just give students a set of facts to memorize, but will equip them to become engaged, productive members of a complicated world community. Early Light has committed to K12, Inc. for History, Science and Art. You can read more on K12, Inc. curriculum by visiting their website [www.k12.com](http://www.k12.com). Early Light intends to use Harcourt Brace for Language Arts and Saxon Math. However, the Board reserves the right to change the math curriculum and may make any such changes with the input of the director. Early Light has received feedback from many parents and welcomes your ideas.

### Do I prefer a year-round schedule or a traditional schedule?

Early Light has adopted a modified traditional schedule with the academic year beginning at the end of August and ending mid-June.

### What is the quality and experience of the teachers?

Early Light Academy's policy in regards to teacher licensure requirements will follow the Division of Administrative Rules outlined in R277-520(3). The standards are as follows:

An early childhood teacher (Kindergarten through 3) shall hold a Level 1, 2, or 3 license with an early childhood license area of concentration.

An elementary teacher (one through 8) shall hold a Level 1, 2, or 3 license with an elementary license area of concentration.

Early Light Academy's goal is to have all 1-6 grade teachers elementary certified and 7 to 9 grade teachers secondary certified. All ELA teachers will be authorized to teach in their subject areas.

A secondary teacher (grades 7-9) shall hold a Level 1, 2, or 3 license with a secondary license area of concentration with endorsements in all teaching assignment(s).

An elementary or a secondary teacher may be assigned temporarily in a core or non-core academic area for which the teacher is not endorsed if the local board requests and receives a letter of authorization from the Board and the teacher is placed on a State Approved Endorsement Plan (SAEP) for teachers.



THE EARLY LIGHT ACADEMY

As required by the State of Utah, all of our teachers will meet highly qualified standards and will be licensed, certified teachers or be qualified to teach under the USOE's Alternative Route to Licensure Program, or otherwise authorized through the State Board of Education.

[How will the school keep elementary students and secondary students separated?](#)

Early Light's campus hosts separate buildings for the elementary and junior high students with unconventional creative and exploratory-play spaces as well as a regulation-sized soccer field.

[Is the school's administration open to my feedback?](#)

Early Light is open to suggestions and desires to receive feedback. Parents may communicate with the governing board and the administrator through the website, make public comment at board meetings and post comments to questions on Facebook (join Early Light Academy Parents). Early Light's governing board and administrator make all final decisions.

[Is my family supportive of a strict dress code?](#)

The purpose of Early Light's dress code policy is to help promote school spirit and unity, prevent socio-economic discrimination, and create a learning environment free of unnecessary distractions. For more details, see dress code policy at [www.earlylightacademy.org](http://www.earlylightacademy.org).

[Am I willing to pack a healthy lunch for my student for the first year?](#)

Early Light asks that parents pack a healthy lunch for their student each school day for the first year or until other options become available. Parents may also consider sending an additional healthy snack and a water bottle with their student. Parents may determine what "healthy" means to them and their family.

[Do I support the elimination of birthday treats, food rewards and soda in the classroom?](#)

Early Light wants to promote a healthy classroom environment for every student with as little distraction as possible to the learning process. Food rewards, birthday treats and soda have been eliminated from the classroom. Food may be used by the teacher in the classroom as part of a lesson plan and with the approval of the director. Teachers will choose how to celebrate student birthdays in their respective classes. Three classroom parties including food may be planned by each grade level team and with the approval of the director. All other classroom parties will be activity-based. For more information, see the wellness policy at [www.earlylightacademy.org](http://www.earlylightacademy.org).

[What do you feel the role of history plays in my child's education?](#)

History fosters a culture of inquiry-based study. In the strictest sense, history is the study of specific events, persons, and places of the past. Early Light's curriculum emphasizes historical inquiry which will necessitate active thinking from our students, engaging them in the journey that is education while becoming familiar with the significant events and individuals of the past, identifying patterns of change over time, assessing the relevance of evidence and analyzing the relationship of the past to the present. Careful consideration of historical fact promotes critical thinking skills. Such engagement encourages each student to take responsibility for learning, providing students with the skills for a smooth transition into high school as well as the motivation for life-long learning and responsible citizenship. "Understanding history sheds light on our future...Our actions today will impact our tomorrow."