

Early Entrance to Kindergarten Information Packet



Centerville City Schools



What is Centerville City Schools Early Entrance to Kindergarten policy?

Based on the Model Policy for Academic Acceleration (Section 3324.10 of HB 66) requirements for underage admission:

1. If a child turns age 5 prior to January 1 then early entrance to kindergarten may be considered. If you are considering this, you should contact the principal in your primary building. The child will participate in the kindergarten screening process and the principal will send you the **Early Entrance to School Referral** form and the **Parent Questionnaire for Early Entrance to School** form.
2. After a meeting to review the collected information from the referral and kindergarten screening, a decision will be made as to whether additional evaluations are needed to determine the need for early entrance. A school psychologist will become part of the team and evaluate the child using a nationally-normed standardized test to assess cognition. Socialization, pre-academic and motor skills may also be evaluated as warranted.

Is early entrance to kindergarten the best choice for your child?

Early entrance is to be viewed as a way to meet a child's needs. The developmental readiness of a child is important to determining the appropriateness of early entrance. Even if a child exhibits strong ability, he/she may not be a good candidate for early entrance. It is important to also consider the child's social maturity, personal development, and motor development.

Early entrance is designed for the exceptional child who is both academically ready as well as developmentally mature when compared to others his or her chronological age. Some considerations in determining the appropriateness of early entrance are:

- Is my child capable of working in a classroom setting with children who are one year older?
- Will my child be frustrated by this placement?
- What are the possible long-term impacts for my child as he/she progresses through elementary, middle, and high school?
- Early entrance is not designed as a replacement for child care. Is this a need or a want?
- Do I understand the expectations for students in kindergarten?

There is a difference between ability and achievement. Some children may appear exceptional simply because of their access to opportunities, such as preschool programs, parents working with them on skill, or access to learning materials. Early entrance is designed for the child who not only has the ability but early achieves when presented with new materials.

Once the decision for early entrance has been made, the choice is difficult to reverse. If a child is evaluated as a good candidate for early entrance to kindergarten, it is important that all stakeholders are supportive of the decision.

What is expected of students in kindergarten?

Kindergarten has changed considerably over the past decade. Today's kindergarten students are engaged in a rigorous instructional program. Please review the Early Learning Content Standards on the Ohio Department of Education website. To access this document, go to www.ode.state.oh.us and search "early learning content standards."

The Ohio Department of Education's website also provides other valuable information related to early entrance which can be located by searching "the young gifted child" and "KRA".

How will my child be evaluated for early entrance to kindergarten?

- If you believe your child may be a good candidate for early entrance, please contact the principal in your child's primary building.
- Your child will be scheduled to go through the kindergarten screening process. You will be asked to complete the **Early Entrance to School Referral** form and the **Parent Questionnaire for Early Entrance to School** form.
- A team will review the referral information, along with the information from the kindergarten screening for your child. Should your child be considered for early entrance, additional evaluations will occur by a school psychologist. Students who score within the top third tier of during the screening may be considered. Should your child be considered a strong candidate for early entrance, you will be provided with a **Permission for Early Entrance Review** form to sign prior to the involvement of the school psychologist.
- The team will reconvene to review the results of the evaluations of the school psychologist and a decision will be made as to whether your child is a good candidate for early entrance into kindergarten. This meeting will include:
 - the principal in the building
 - the parents or guardians of the child
 - a kindergarten teacher
 - the gifted coordinator
 - the school psychologist
 - Director of Student Services

IMPORTANT

Very few children qualify for early entrance to kindergarten. Please make sure you proceed with child care arrangements as a contingency. If you are selecting a preschool program, please understand that those programs will fill up quickly. Please register your child as you normally would, but let the preschool know that you child is being screened for early entrance to kindergarten.