

EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN

State law establishes minimum age requirements for admission to kindergarten and sets forth requirements for a standardized testing program to evaluate those students deemed ready by parents for early admission.

The District provides early admission to kindergarten for qualified students. Any student residing in the District may be referred by a staff member or a parent/guardian to the principal of the school for evaluation for possible early admission.

Pursuant to ORC 3321.01, all children who will be the proper age for entrance to kindergarten by the first day of January of the school year for which admission is requested shall be evaluated upon request of the child's parent or legal guardian. Children who will not be the proper age for entrance to kindergarten by the first day of January of the school year for which admission is requested shall also be evaluated for early admittance if referred by an educator within the District, a preschool educator who knows the child, or a pediatrician or psychologist who knows the child. Such children may also be evaluated at the discretion of the principal of the school to which the student may be admitted.

Before a student is evaluated for early entrance, the principal of the school shall obtain written permission from the child's parent/guardian.

Children referred for early entrance will be evaluated in a prompt manner. The principal shall convene an acceleration evaluation committee to determine whether early entrance is appropriate for that child. The acceleration evaluation committee shall include the following:

1. A parent/legal guardian or a representative designated by the parent/guardian
2. The District/school psychologist
3. The principal of the school to which the child may be admitted
4. A teacher at the grade level to which the student may be admitted

The acceleration evaluation committee shall be responsible for conducting a fair and thorough evaluation of the student. The procedure shall be:

- A. An evaluation to determine the child's readiness for school will be conducted by the county school psychologist. The evaluation shall include an individual intelligence test and an assessment of the child's social, emotional, academic and physical readiness characteristics. The recommendation of the psychologist is made by the local school.

- B. A child must score at a mental ability 16 to 18 months advanced in mental age over the chronological age. The superior range of intelligence (IQ's above 120) shall be considered a minimum requirement appropriate for early entrance.
- C. Supportive readiness evidence regarding the social, emotional and physical characteristics of the child shall be gathered during the testing procedure and annotated for the record. Immaturity in the areas of physical, emotional and social development shall be valid reasons for withholding acceptance.
- D. The child shall have social maturity at least equal to the child's advanced mental status.

The parent/guardian will be provided with a written summary of the outcome of the evaluation process. This notification shall include instructions for appealing the outcome of the evaluation process.

Appeals must be made in writing to the Superintendent within 30 calendar days of the parent/guardian receiving the results of the evaluation. The Superintendent shall review the appeal and notify the parent/guardian of his/her decision within 30 calendar days of receiving the appeal. The Superintendent's decision will be final.

If a child is recommended for early entrance, the acceleration evaluation committee will develop a written plan. The parents of the student will be provided a copy of the written plan.

[Adoption date: August 9, 2007]
[Re-adoption date: April 14, 2011]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3321.01
3324.01 et seq.
OAC 3301-51-15

CROSS REFS.: IGBB, Programs for Gifted and Talented Students
IKEB, Acceleration
JEB, Entrance Age (Mandatory Kindergarten)