



CENTERVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

Early Entrance to Kindergarten Information Packet

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 five (5) before January 1st, then early entrance to kindergarten may be considered. If you are considering this type of acceleration, you should contact the principal of your primary building. Your 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 by an acceleration team as to whether additional evaluations are needed to determine the need for early entrance. A school psychologist who is part of the acceleration team will evaluate the child using a nationally normed standardized test to assess cognition. Socialization, pre-academic, and motor skills will also be evaluated as warranted.

Is early entrance to kindergarten the best option to consider 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 in determining the appropriateness of early entrance. Even if a child exhibits strong ability, they may not necessarily 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 designated as a gifted acceleration in the state of Ohio. It is designed for the exceptional child who performs remarkably well academically and is developmentally mature when compared to others of their chronological age.

Some considerations in determining the appropriateness of acceleration through early entrance include:

- Is my child capable of working in a classroom setting with children who are one year older?

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- Will my child be frustrated by this placement?
- What are the possible long-term impacts for my child as they progress through elementary, middle, and high school?
- Do I understand the expectations for students in kindergarten?

There is a difference between ability and achievement. Some children may appear exceptional because of their access to opportunities outside of school. Early entrance is designed for the child who not only has the ability but also exhibits early high achievement 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, all stakeholders must be supportive of the decision.

What is expected of students in kindergarten?

Kindergarten students are engaged each day in a rigorous instructional program. Please review the Early Learning Content Standards on the Ohio Department of Education website. <https://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Early-Learning/Early-Learning-Content-Standards>

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

1. Contact the principal in your child's primary building, to begin the early entrance process:
 - Mrs. French for PVN ((937) 438-6062
 - Mrs. Allen for PVS (937) 312-1273
2. Sign up for kindergarten screening. This generally runs the last week of April and the first week of May, each year.

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3. You will be asked to complete the Early Entrance to School Referral form and the Parent Questionnaire for Early Entrance to School form.
4. A team will review the information from the kindergarten screening as well as the referral information for your child. If your child is considered a candidate for early entrance, additional evaluations will occur by a school psychologist. Students who score within the top 10% during the screening may be considered. You will be provided with a Permission for Early Entrance Review form to sign before the assessments are administered by the school psychologist.
5. The acceleration team will meet for a final review of the results of the evaluations of the school psychologist and a decision will be made as to whether your child will be eligible for early entrance into kindergarten. This acceleration team will include:
 - the principal of the building
 - the parents or guardians of the child
 - a kindergarten teacher
 - the gifted coordinator
 - the school psychologist
 - the Director of Student Services

IMPORTANT TO NOTE

Very few children qualify for early entrance to kindergarten. Please make sure that you proceed with a contingency plan such as childcare or preschool arrangements. Register your child as you normally would, but inform the preschool that your child is being screened for early entrance to kindergarten.

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