Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who is Early Entrance designed for?
A: Early Entrance was created to meet the needs of a very few "highly advanced gifted" children who are academically, socially and emotionally ready for school. It would not be appropriate for most gifted children.

Q: What does the application and evaluation for Early Entrance cost?
A: Early Entrance applications and assessments are provided by the Thompson School District free of cost to applicants.

Q: Will the Thompson School District accept privately acquired testing and assessments?
A: No. In order to ensure equity, all assessments will be conducted by district personnel. Outside assessments will not be accepted. Children will be assessed for evidence of readiness, literacy, numeracy and abstract reasoning.

Q: Can I stay in the room during my child's assessment?
A: Assessments are conducted by certified and licensed professionals. Evaluating the child's ability to separate from their parent/guardian and engage in the assessments is a part of the total evaluation. Parents will not be allowed in the room during the evaluation process.

Q: Is Early Entrance only available to children whose first language is English?
A: No. Language support for assessments will be provided as needed. Assessments for Early Entrance were selected to be culturally, linguistically, and ethnically nonbiased.

Q: If my child is granted Early Entrance, what school will they attend?
A: Students accepted for Early Entrance are guaranteed enrollment into their neighborhood school. If parents would prefer their child attend a school other than the neighborhood school, they must first register with their neighborhood school and then fill out a transfer request form.. Students accepted for Early Entrance will be granted a transfer request if the school of choice has an opening. If the school is full, students will be added to the end of the wait list along with other children who requested Open Enrollment. Families may apply for Open Enrollment in subsequent years as any other family.

Q: If my child is granted Early Entrance to kindergarten, will they go to school for a half day or a full day?
A: Children who enter kindergarten will attend for a half day unless their school provides full day kindergarten as a Title I school and parents elect full day classes. Parents from non-Title I schools can speak with their principal about tuition-based kindergarten at their neighborhood school. Families who qualify for free and reduced lunch can also apply for a scholarship to full day Kindergarten at a non-Title I school through the school principal.

Q: If my child is granted Early Entrance, what curriculum will they receive?
A: Students who are granted Early Entrance will be given the same curricular options as other students in their grade and differentiation strategies appropriate to their needs.

Q: What if I don't agree with the committee's decision regarding my child?
A: Decisions regarding Early Entrance are made by a committee of professionals based on many factors gathered in a body of evidence. If a child is granted Early Entrance, the parents retain the option of not accepting it if they change their minds. They may enroll their child according to regular district age guidelines. If a child is denied Early Entrance which parents feel very strongly is not appropriate, they may file an appeal with the district's Gifted and Talented Coordinator.