



Canal Winchester

L O C A L S C H O O L S

A Parent's Guide To Early Entrance Kindergarten

Indian Trail Elementary School
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Is Early Entrance To Kindergarten The Best Choice For My Child?

Early entrance should be viewed as a means of meeting a child's *needs*. Key determinations as to whether or not early entrance is appropriate for a child include social maturity, personal development, and motor development above their chronological age. Even though a child may have a lot of ability, s/he may not be ready for kindergarten.

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. This opportunity is designed as a measure to meet individual differences in school readiness. Some children may appear exceptional simply because of their access to opportunities (e.g., preschool programs, parents working with them on skills, or access to learning materials). Early entrance is designed for the child who not only has ability but easily achieves when presented new material.

Characteristics to Consider

Once the decision has been made for early entrance, 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.

Some considerations when determining if early entrance is right for a child:

- Is the child capable of working in class with children who are one year (or more) older?
- Will the child be frustrated by this placement?
- What are possible long-term impacts for the child as s/he progresses through elementary, middle and high school (e.g., beginning college at a younger age).
- 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 today (see section below)?
- Very few children qualify for early entrance. Does the child have other care arrangements to proceed with as a contingency?

What Is Expected of Students In Kindergarten?

Kindergarten expectations have changed considerably over the past couple of decades. The basis of these changes are governed under ODEW (Ohio Department of Education and Workforce). Parents can easily access the *Early Learning and Development Standards* at this link for useful information about kindergarten approaches to learning, specific academic benchmarks, as well as cognitive, physical, creative, social and emotional developments:

<https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Early-Learning/Early-Learning-Content-Standards/Early-Learning-and-Development-Standards.pdf.aspx?lang=en-US>

ODEW also asks the following of students to assess for Kindergarten Readiness:

Physical Skills	Heath & Safety Needs	Personal Needs	Social & Emotional Skills
Does Your Child--	Has Your Child--	Can Your Child (without your help)--	Does Your Child--
<input type="checkbox"/> Enjoy outdoor play (running/jumping/climbing) <input type="checkbox"/> Draw and trace basic shapes <input type="checkbox"/> Cut with scissors <input type="checkbox"/> Bounce a ball and/or ride a tricycle	<input type="checkbox"/> had required shots <input type="checkbox"/> had a dental exam <input type="checkbox"/> had a vision exam <input type="checkbox"/> learned own first and last name <input type="checkbox"/> learned first and last name of parent <input type="checkbox"/> learned to watch for cars when	<input type="checkbox"/> use the bathroom <input type="checkbox"/> wash hands <input type="checkbox"/> brush teeth <input type="checkbox"/> use tissue to blow nose <input type="checkbox"/> button and zip up clothing <input type="checkbox"/> put on/take off a coat <input type="checkbox"/> tie and/or velcro shoes	<input type="checkbox"/> play well with others <input type="checkbox"/> separate from a parent without becoming upset <input type="checkbox"/> share with other children <input type="checkbox"/> care about the feelings of others <input type="checkbox"/> follow routines <input type="checkbox"/> put toys away when asked

	crossing the street <input type="checkbox"/> learned not to talk to strangers <input type="checkbox"/> developed a set bedtime routine <input type="checkbox"/> learned to follow safety rules		
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Source:
<https://education.ohio.gov/getattachment/Topics/Early-Learning/Kindergarten/Kindergarten-Readiness-Checklist/Kindergarten-Readiness-Checklist.pdf.aspx>

*The ODEW website also provides information about the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment for Literacy-Revised (KRA-A) which ALL Kindergarten students take within the first six weeks of school.

*Canal Winchester Schools provide a full-day kindergarten program. Students are expected to participate in the academic program throughout the entire day. Stamina for this long of an academic setting should also be taken into consideration.

Early Entrance Kindergarten (EEK) Process

The Canal Winchester Local School District Board of Education shall establish the following entrance age requirements for students, which are consistent with statute and sound educational practice, and directs that all eligible students be treated in an equitable manner.

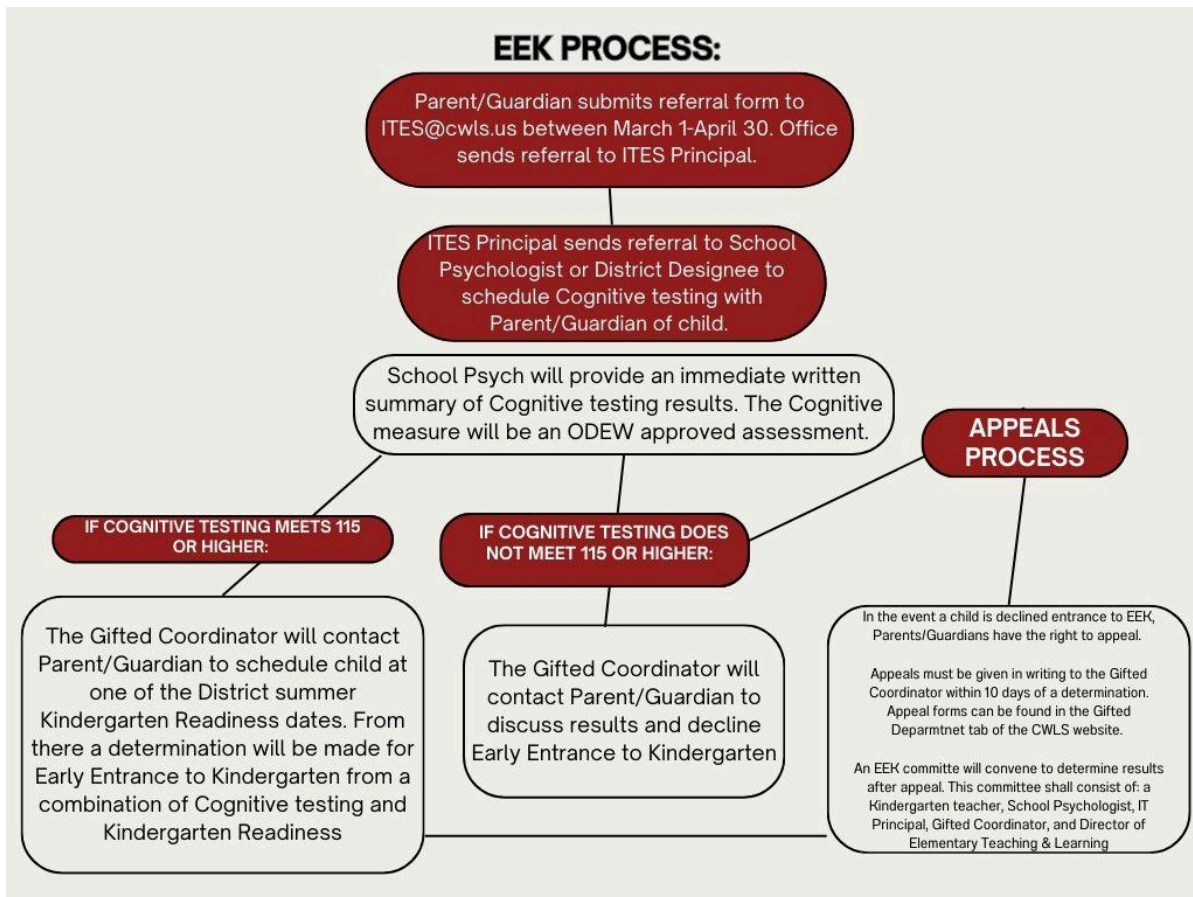
A child is eligible for entrance into kindergarten if s/he attains the age of five (5) on or before August 1st of the year in which s/he applies for entrance. A child under age six (6) who is enrolled in kindergarten will be considered of compulsory school age.

The District provides early admission to kindergarten for qualified students. Copies of the Referral for Acceleration forms are available on the website or at Indian Trail Elementary. Any student residing in the District may be referred by a staff member or a parent/guardian to the principal of the school for the evaluation for possible early admission. **All referral forms for Early Entrance Kindergarten (EEK) must be submitted no earlier than March 1 and no later than April 30th. No late forms will be accepted.**

Pursuant to R.C. 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 or first grade 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.

If after going through all the above information, you feel your child is a potential early entrance candidate you may complete a “Referral for Acceleration” form found at the end of this packet at which time the following process shall be followed for such consideration.

*Children referred for early entrance will be evaluated in a prompt manner. The process will begin from the date of submission and end no later than **June 30**.



If a child is recommended for early entrance, the Gifted Coordinator in conjunction with the child’s teacher will develop a Written Acceleration Plan (WAP) for that child in the fall. The plan will specify:

- placement of the child in the accelerated setting;
- strategies to support successful early entrance; and
- an appropriate transition period for accelerated students.

The child’s teacher will oversee the implementation of the acceleration plan and monitor the child’s adjustment to the early entrance. At any time during the transition period, a parent/guardian of the child may request in writing that the child be withdrawn from the accelerated placement. In such cases, the principal shall remove the child without repercussions. Please note, if a child has been enrolled in a public school setting as a Kindergarten student and has attended at least a day as a Kindergarten student, they are no longer eligible to attend a public school setting as a Preschool student. Thus, if you choose to withdraw your child from the early acceleration program, private preschool options may remain available to you, but not a public preschool program.

At the end of the transition period, the accelerated placement shall become permanent. The child's records shall be modified accordingly, and the acceleration plan shall become part of the student's permanent record to facilitate continuous progress through the curriculum.

*For the purposes of EEK students, all documentation is housed under the District Gifted Department due to the nature of the acceleration. This however, does NOT identify the child as Gifted in any manner.

IMPORTANT

Early entrance is not an evaluation to determine readiness. State and local policies require the child's ability to far exceed that of the average kindergarten student, and thus very few children qualify for early entrance to kindergarten. Your child may seem to behave very much like other age-eligible kindergarteners, but still may not pass the stringent early entrance requirements. Please make sure to proceed with childcare arrangements as a contingency. If you are selecting a preschool program, please understand that those programs fill up quickly. Please register your child as you normally would, but let the preschool know that your child is being screened for early entrance to kindergarten.



CANAL WINCHESTER LOCAL SCHOOLS REFERRAL FOR ACCELERATION FORM

Student's Name:		Grade:		Sex:	
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Date:		Date of Birth:	
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Parent/Guardian Names:			
Street Address:			
City:		Zip:	

Person Initiating Request:	
Relationship to Student:	

Daytime Cell #:		Email:	
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Type of Acceleration Requested:

Early Entrance Kindergarten For school year _____	Required score of 115 or higher on cognitive ability assessment. (Does not guarantee time)
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Whole Grade Acceleration For school year _____	Required assessments in all subject areas: grade level, two grade levels above and IQ. From grade _____ to grade _____
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PLEASE COMPLETE NEXT PAGE WHICH REFERENCES THE ODEW CHECKLIST IN THE ABOVE DOCUMENT

Physical Skills:

My child meets several of the ODEW suggested criteria in Kindergarten Readiness Physical Skills.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Please explain how your child meets this criteria:	

Health and Safety Needs:

My child meets several of the ODEW suggested criteria in Kindergarten Readiness Health and Safety Needs.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Please explain how your child meets this criteria:	

Personal Needs:

My child meets several of the ODEW suggested criteria in Kindergarten Readiness Personal Needs.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Please explain how your child meets this criteria:	

Social and Emotional Skills:

My child meets several of the ODEW suggested criteria in Kindergarten Readiness Social and Emotional Skills.	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
Please explain how your child meets this criteria:	

Academics:

Has your child had any type of previous Preschool experience?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no
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Why do you think your child is academically ready to be advanced?

Testing is required for acceleration purposes. Your child will receive testing by designated school personnel and the information may be shared with your child’s teachers, principals and other appropriate school personnel. The school district will inform you if your child qualifies for acceleration.

Please check box if giving permission and fill in child’s full name:

- Yes, I give permission for direct testing of intellectual ability and/or individual subject testing for my child, _____, to be tested by a school psychologist.

Parent Signature:		Date:	
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Please return form via email to Indian Trail Elementary School:
ITES@cwls.us or Fax: (614) 833-2167

