A Parent's Guide for
EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN



Northmont City Schools
1150 West National Road
Englewood, OH 45315

Phone: (937) 832-5000

Legislation Governing Early Entrance to Kindergarten and Giftedness

- If a child turns five or six **on or before the first day of school**, they can start kindergarten or first grade.
- If a child's fifth birthday is after the first day of instruction but prior to the first day of January, they can wait and begin kindergarten the next year. Alternatively, families may contact the local school district to refer the child for kindergarten entrance to be admitted in accordance with **district policy (see below)**.
- If a child will turn five or six on or after the first day of January of the school year, the family can make a referral, and the child shall be evaluated for early admittance in accordance with the district's acceleration policy adopted under ORC 3324.10.

Northmont City School District

- Northmont follows the State of Ohio's Model Student Acceleration Policy. According to the *Ohio Revised Code* (3324.01), "gifted" means students who perform or show potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared to others of their age, experience, or environment and who are identified under Division (A), (B), (C), or (D) of Section 3324.03 of the Revised Code.
- If you believe your child is a viable candidate for early entrance, please contact Noelle Leingang, Assistant Principal & Preschool Director, email: nleingang@northmontschools.net or phone: 937.832.5034.

Is Early Entrance to Kindergarten the Best Choice for Your Child?

Early entrance is intended to meet the needs of a small number of children. While some children demonstrate strong ability, that does not always mean they are ready for kindergarten. Social maturity, independence, and motor development are just as important as academic skills.

Early entrance is designed for children who are both **academically advanced and developmentally ready** compared to others their age. It is not a general option, but a specific pathway for children who demonstrate exceptional readiness across multiple areas.

Questions to Consider

- Can my child work successfully in a classroom with children who are a full year older?
- Could this placement lead to frustration or stress?
- What are the long-term implications (academics, athletics, social development) as my child moves through school?
- Am I considering early entrance as a substitute for childcare?
- Do I fully understand the expectations of a full-day kindergarten program?

Attitudes and Supports for Success

- My child is excited and ready to attend kindergarten.
- I understand that success in school requires strong support at home.
- I am prepared to help my child adjust to a more structured setting with higher academic expectations than preschool.

Ability vs. Achievement

There is a difference between ability and achievement. Some children appear advanced due to exposure and opportunity (e.g., preschool, parent support, access to materials). Early entrance is intended for children who not only show ability, but also **consistently and independently achieve when presented with new learning**.

Important Considerations

- Once a child is placed in early entrance, it is difficult to reverse the decision.
- If a child qualifies, it is important that families and school staff are aligned and supportive.

What to Expect in Kindergarten

Kindergarten today is more rigorous than in the past. Students are engaged in structured instruction across multiple subject areas.

Families can review Ohio's Early Learning and Academic Content Standards for English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies through the Ohio Department of Education.