

EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN

State law establishes minimum age requirements for admission to kindergarten. A child who does not meet the age requirement for admittance to kindergarten or first grade, but who will be five or six years old, respectively, prior to January 1 of the school year in which admission is requested, shall be evaluated for early admittance in accordance with District policy upon referral by the child's parent or guardian, an educator employed by the District, a preschool educator who knows the child or a pediatrician or psychologist who knows the child. Following an evaluation in accordance with such a referral, the Board decides whether to admit the child.

If a child, for whom admission to kindergarten or first grade is requested, will not be five or six years of age, respectively, prior to January 1 of the school year in which admission is requested, the child is admitted only in accordance with the District's acceleration policy adopted under State law.

[Adoption date: January 15, 2008]
(Revision date: June 14, 2011)
(Revision date: November 8, 2012)
(Revision date: February 13, 2014)

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3314.06
3314.08
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)

NOTE: Senate Bill 316 (2012) extends early entrance provisions to also apply to community schools.

School districts are prohibited from denying a transferring student admission, based on the student's age if the student has been granted early admission to kindergarten by another school district or chartered nonpublic school.

EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN

Procedures:

1. Parent submits application to the building principal (preferably with information from preschool or pediatrician).
2. District highly recommends the student participates in District Kindergarten Screening.
3. In accordance with ORC 3321.01 an Early Entrance Testing Program is initiated.
4. Ability and achievement assessments are administered/reviewed by the district.
 - a. If the student does not score at least one standard deviation above the mean, the evaluation committee will meet to discuss test results, school history, developmental issues, interpersonal skills, attitude and support. The committee makes placement decision based on data reviewed.
 - b. If the student is recommended to continue with the process, checklists will be completed by 2 of 3 following individuals: Parent, Preschool Teacher, and/or Pediatrician. If necessary, an observation of the child in an educational setting will be completed by the school psychologist and/or other qualified personnel. The committee makes placement decision based on data reviewed.
5. If there is an appeal, the gifted coordinator and superintendent review the appeal and evaluation data to make a determination.
6. If it is determined that the student will be admitted for early entrance, the gifted coordinator will develop a WAP (Written Acceleration Plan).
7. Children who turn 5 after the first day of January of the school year for which admission is requested will only be evaluated if referred by an educator within the district, a pre-school educator who knows the child, or pediatrician or psychologist. Children referred by parent will be evaluated at the discretion of the building principal of the school to which the student may be admitted. (pursuant to OAC 3321.01)

[Adoption date: January 24, 2012]
(Revision date: February 9, 2012)
(Revision date: November 8, 2012)