

APPLICATION FOR EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN

A Parent's Guide to Early Entrance to Kindergarten

IMPORTANT

As Early Entrance is being determined, please make sure you proceed with child care arrangements as a contingency. If you are selecting a Preschool program please understand that those programs routinely fill up quickly. Please register your child as you normally would, but let the Preschool Office know that your child is being screened for early entrance to kindergarten. As well, if you feel strongly that your child may be a good candidate for early entrance and you will need before/after school child care, please make sure you let the Extended Care Program know that your child is being screened for early entrance to kindergarten.

Greenville City Schools

215 W. Fourth Street

Greenville, Ohio 45331

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APPLICATION FOR EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN**Legislation Governing Early Entrance to Kindergarten and Giftedness**

- A parent may request early admission to kindergarten if the child turns five years of age after the district's kindergarten entrance date (August 1 or Sept. 30) and before January 1. The local board of education shall determine entrance through a standardized testing program.
- Children who will not yet 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 possible early admittance if referred by an educator within the district, a pre-school educator who knows the child, or pediatrician or psychologist who knows the child.
- Early entrance to kindergarten is a subject typically addressed through gifted education. It is covered in 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.

Greenville City School District

- The Greenville City School District considers a child eligible for entrance into "regular" kindergarten if s/he attains the age of five on or before August 1st of the year s/he applies for entrance. A child under the age of six (6) who is enrolled in kindergarten will be considered of compulsory school age.
- By parental request a child may be tested for early admission to kindergarten if s/he will be five (5) years of age between August 2nd and January 1st, inclusive, and exhibit the mental, social and emotional standards established by the Greenville Board of Education.
- On August 15, 2006 the Greenville Board of Education adopted the State of Ohio's Model Student Acceleration Policy for Advanced Learners:

"Children who are referred for evaluation for possible accelerated placement 60 or more days prior to the start of the school year shall be evaluated in advance of the start of the school year so that the child may be placed in the accelerated placement on the first day of school."

"Children who will not yet 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 possible early admittance if referred by an educator within the district, a pre-school educator who knows the child, or pediatrician or psychologist who knows the child. Children who will not yet 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 may also be evaluated for possible early admittance at the discretion of the principal of the school to which the student may be admitted."

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- The Early Entrance to kindergarten process shall be reviewed annually by the Early Entrance to Kindergarten Committee.

Is early entrance to kindergarten the best choice for your child?

Early entrance should be viewed as a means of meeting a child's needs. The key to determining whether or not early entrance is appropriate for is developmental readiness. Even though a child may have a lot of ability, s/he may not be ready for kindergarten. Social maturity, personal development, and motor development are important factors for a child's success in school.

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

- Is my child capable of working in a classroom setting with children who are one year older than him or her?
- Will my child be frustrated by this placement?
- What are the possible long-term impacts for my 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?

There is a difference between ability and achievement. 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.

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.

What is expected of students in kindergarten?

- Kindergarten, like many other areas of education, has changed considerably over the past couple of decades. Today's kindergarten students are engaged in a rigorous instructional program.
- Please take time to review the Early Learning Content Standards as well as the subject specific Academic Content Standards for English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies on the Ohio Department of Education website.

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEPrimary.aspx?page=2&TopicRelationID=463>

Greenville City Schools

APPLICATION FOR EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN

- The Ohio Department of Education’s website contains useful information about kindergarten, in particular, the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment for Literacy (KRA-L). There is a family guide on the Early Learning and School Readiness (ELSR) link about the KRA-L, which all kindergarten students will take within the first six weeks of school.

ODE>Learning Supports>Early Learning and School Readiness>Kindergarten>KRA-L

- Kindergarten in the Greenville City School District is a full-day program. Most programs are from approximately 9:05 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. Students are expected to participate in the academic program throughout the day.

Ohio Department of Education (ODE) (<http://www.ode.state.oh.us>)
Kindergarten Readiness Checklist

To do well in school, children need to be supported and nurtured in all areas of development.

It is also important that your child is physically, socially and emotionally ready for school. This checklist can help serve as your guide. But please remember, young children change so fast. If they cannot do something this week, you may see them do it a couple of weeks later.

Is your child ready for kindergarten? Ask yourself these questions:

Development Area	Tips and Activities to Help Prepare Your Child
<p>Physical Skills Does your child...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enjoy outdoor play such as running, jumping, and climbing; • draw and trace basic shapes; • cut with scissors; • bounce a ball; • ride a tricycle? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help your child learn his or her full name, address and telephone number. • Help your child to look both ways when crossing the street. • Talk with your child about strangers and who to go to for help. • Use bedtime as the opportunity to read to and talk with your child.
<p>Health and Safety Needs Has your child...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • had required shots (<i>or provide a signed waiver</i>); • had a dental exam; • had a vision exam; • learned own first and last name; • learned first and last name of parent; • learned to watch for cars when crossing the street; • learned to not talk to strangers; • developed a set routine for going to bed; • learned to follow safety rules? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help your child learn his or her full name, address and telephone number. • Help your child to look both ways when crossing the street. • Talk with your child about strangers and who to go to for help. • Use bedtime as the opportunity to read to and talk with your child.

Greenville City Schools

APPLICATION FOR EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN

<p>Personal needs</p> <p>Without your help, can your child...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use the bathroom; • wash hands; • brush teeth; • use tissue to blow nose; • button and zip up shirts and pants; • put on and take off coat; • tie and/or use velcro shoes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create morning and bedtime bathing and tooth-brushing routines. • Allow your child to dress themselves. • Practice putting on shoes. • Help your child learn to use their words to tell other grownups when they are feeling sick or hurt.
<p>Personal needs</p> <p>Without your help, can your child...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use the bathroom; • wash hands; • brush teeth; • use tissue to blow nose; • button and zip up shirts and pants; • put on and take off coat; • tie and/or use velcro shoes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create morning and bedtime bathing and tooth-brushing routines. • Allow your child to dress themselves. • Practice putting on shoes. • Help your child learn to use their words to tell other grownups when they are feeling sick or hurt.
<p>Social and Emotional Skills</p> <p>Does your child...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • play well with other children; • separate from a parent without being upset; • share with other children; • care about the feelings of others; • follow routines; • put toys away when asked? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give your child small chores to learn responsibility. • Help your child learn to follow directions by giving simple steps. • Encourage your child to share. • Praise your child when he or she does something well. • Provide guidance when your child is having difficulty.

Applying for Early Entrance to Kindergarten

- If you believe that your child may be a good candidate for early entrance, please obtain an information/application packet from the Greenville City School District administration. Or you may call the district office at 937-548-3185 to have an information/application packet mailed.
- Once the application has been completed, it needs to be returned to the Greenville City School District administration building no later than March 26 in the year for which admission is being requested.
- Parents will be contacted if this observation is needed. While some children may be cognitively ready for kindergarten, they may not be developmentally ready. This additional information may be needed to assess the social and emotional skills necessary to be successful in a school environment.
- The application shall then be routed to Woodland Primary School where the principal will coordinate the evaluation process. The evaluation will be completed within 45 days.

Greenville City Schools

APPLICATION FOR EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN

- Once the evaluations are completed, an acceleration evaluation committee will convene for the purpose of conducting a fair and thorough evaluation of the child. This committee may include the following:
 - 1) the home school principal or assistant principal
 - 2) a kindergarten teacher or a gifted services teacher
 - 3) a parent or legal guardian of the referred student or a representative designated by a parent or legal guardian of the referred student
 - 4) a gifted education coordinator or gifted intervention specialist
 - 5) a school psychologist or guidance counselor

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

- Early entrance evaluation is completed in the late winter/early spring concurrently with kindergarten registration.

Procedures:

- Parent submits application to the building principal (preferably with information from preschool or pediatrician).
- District highly recommends the student participates in District Kindergarten Screening.
- An Early Entrance Testing Program is initiated.
- Ability and achievement assessments are administered/reviewed by the district.
 - 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.
 - 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.

Timeline for Early Entrance to Kindergarten

March 26	Deadline for Early Entrance to kindergarten applications Return application to: Greenville City Schools Administrative Office 215 W. Fourth Street Greenville, Ohio 45331 (937) 548-3185
May 21	Deadline to complete evaluations
June 18	Deadline to complete acceleration committee meetings
June 25	Deadline for written notification of outcome of the evaluation process

Greenville City Schools

APPLICATION FOR EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN

July 15 Deadline to submit a written appeal to the Superintendent or his/her designee regarding the outcome of the evaluation process

Applications received after March 26th will be scheduled at the principal's discretion of the school to which the student may be admitted.

APPLICATION FOR EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN

PARENT CHECKLIST

The seven broad developmental dimensions provide the framework for the kindergarten instructional program. This checklist will help in determining your child’s readiness for a kindergarten program. **Please read each statement and indicate by placing a “checkmark” how you rate your child’s abilities.**

Physical Well-Being and Motor Development	Frequently	Sometimes	None of the time
Performs self-help tasks independently <i>(dressing, undressing, zipping, tying, toileting, eating)</i>	_____	_____	_____
Uses eye/hand coordination to perform fine motor tasks <i>(drawing, writing, and cutting)</i>	_____	_____	_____
Uses balance and control to perform large motor tasks <i>(walking, jumping, and skipping)</i>	_____	_____	_____

Personal and Social Development	Frequently	Sometimes	None of the time
Shows eagerness to learn (curious, likes to investigate)	_____	_____	_____
Follows rules and routines (cleans up at play time)	_____	_____	_____
Handles change and transition (dinnertime to bedtime)	_____	_____	_____
Interacts easily with one or more children	_____	_____	_____
Separates easily from parent	_____	_____	_____
The ability to listen (attend) for at least 10 minutes	_____	_____	_____

Language and Literacy	Frequently	Sometimes	None of the time
Listens for meaning in stories, discussions, and conversations	_____	_____	_____
Speaks clearly, to share ideas and thoughts	_____	_____	_____
Can identify most letters <i>(uppercase and lowercase)</i>	_____	_____	_____
Can identify some beginning sounds	_____	_____	_____
Use some letters and words to write	_____	_____	_____

Mathematical Thinking	Frequently	Sometimes	None of the time
Can recognize numbers 0-20	_____	_____	_____
Can orally count forward to 20	_____	_____	_____
Can recognize, duplicate, and extend simple patterns <i>(circle-triangle, circle-triangle, circle-triangle)</i>	_____	_____	_____
Can recognize and duplicate basic shapes	_____	_____	_____

Scientific Thinking	Frequently	Sometimes	None of the time
Uses a magnifying glass to look at different objects	_____	_____	_____
Can describe and sort objects by one or more properties	_____	_____	_____
Uses the five senses to make observations about the natural world	_____	_____	_____

Social Studies	Frequently	Sometimes	None of the time
Recognizes self and others as having same and different characteristics	_____	_____	_____
Describes roles and responsibilities of people <i>(Mom is a doctor, she helps sick people)</i>	_____	_____	_____
Recognizes the reasons for rules	_____	_____	_____

Greenville City Schools

APPLICATION FOR EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN

The Arts	Frequently	Sometimes	None of the time
Likes to paint and draw	_____	_____	_____
Likes to sing and dance	_____	_____	_____
Can share ideas about a drawing/painting	_____	_____	_____
Can recognize basic colors	_____	_____	_____

PERMISSION FOR REVIEW

I, _____, hereby give my permission for
Parent/Legal Guardian

Greenville City School District to respond to a request for assistance for _____.
Name of Child

In giving my permission, I understand that any or all of the following may occur:

- 1.) Review of relevant records (releases of information will be included);
- 2.) Interviews with caregiver and or parent/guardian;
- 3.) Observation(s) of my child;
- 4.) Assessment (e.g. curriculum-based, screening, and other appropriate measures to determine interventions); and/or
- 5.) Other: as needed.

I further understand and agree that the information collected by the school district will then be reviewed by the team to develop an intervention plan and designate the resources needed to implement these interventions.

Print Name of Parent/Legal Guardian

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date

[Adoption date: May 24, 2011]
 (Revised: November 8, 2012)