

Early Entrance to Kindergarten



Westerville City Schools

**Gifted Education Department
950 County Line Road
Westerville, OH 43081
(614) 797-6276**

What is Westerville Early Entrance to Kindergarten policy?

Based on The Model Policy for Academic Acceleration (Section 3324.10 of HB 66) requirements for underage admission:

1. If a child age five (5) between October 1 and January 1 then early entrance to kindergarten may be considered. The request form can be obtained from the Curriculum and Instruction Department and submitted by the parent/guardians.
2. If a child is not age five (5) by January 1 then early entrance to kindergarten may be considered. The request form can be obtained by the parents/guardians from the Curriculum and Instruction Department but must be filled out by an educator within the district, a preschool educator who knows the child, or a pediatrician/psychologist who knows the child;
3. The evaluation consists of a test of cognition where students will be evaluated using a nationally-normed standardized test as recommended by the Iowa Acceleration Manual. Students exhibiting advanced intellectual ability and reason should be considered for early entrance. Motor skills and socialization evaluation also allow the psychologist a broader picture of the child to assess readiness for kindergarten.

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

Early entrance is to be viewed as way to meet a child's needs. The developmental readiness of a child is important to determining the appropriateness of early entrance. Even if a child exhibits strong ability, he/she may not be a good candidate for early entrance. It is important to also consider the child's social maturity, personal development, and motor development.

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. Some considerations in determining the appropriateness of early entrance:

- Is my child capable of working in a classroom setting with children who are one year older?
- Will my child be frustrated by this placement?
- What are the possible long-term impacts for my child as he/she progresses through elementary, middle, and high school?
- 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?

There is a difference between ability and achievement. Some children may appear exceptional simply because of their access to opportunities, such as preschool programs, parents working with them on skills, or access to learning materials. Early entrance is designed for the child who not only has the ability but easily achieves when presented new material.

Once the decision for early entrance 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 has changed considerably over the last couple of decades. Today's kindergarten students are engaged in a rigorous instructional program. Please review the Early Learning Content Standards on the Ohio Department of Education Website. To access this document, go to www.ode.state.oh.us and search "early learning content standards".

The Ohio Department of Education's website also provides other valuable information related to early entrance. On the Ohio Department of Education website, search "the young gifted child" and "KRA-L".

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

- If you believe your child may be a good candidate for early entrance, please obtain an information/application packet from the Gifted Education Office located at Westerville North HS or by calling (614)797-6276 to request the information/application packet be mailed.
- Once the application has been completed, it needs to be returned to the Gifted Education Department **no later than the 2nd Friday in August** in the year for which admission is being requested.
- The application will then be routed to the school psychologist who will coordinate the evaluation process.
- Instruments used in the evaluation process will include the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence – 3rd Edition (WPPSI-III)

According to the Iowa Acceleration Scale, a student who meets the Critical Item (Section II) of one standard deviation above the mean (115) is a viable candidate for acceleration. Those students who meet the criteria, move on for the visual motor skills and socialization evaluation.

- 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
 - 2) A kindergarten teacher
 - 3) A parent or legal guardian of the referred student
 - 4) A gifted education coordinator
 - 5) A school psychologist

- Students are expected to be developmentally “on track” with the typical kindergarten student. Should a student meet the identification criteria for Superior Cognitive identification but fail to meet the developmental readiness assessment, the acceleration team will then discuss and reach consensus as to what placement is best for the child.

IMPORTANT

Very few children qualify for early entrance to kindergarten. Please make sure you proceed with child care 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.

**Westerville City Schools Early Entrance to Kindergarten
Application
Student History/Parent Survey**

Name _____ DOB _____

Address _____

Legal Guardian(s) _____

Father _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Email address _____

Mother _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Email address _____

Native Language Parent(s) _____ Student _____

Does the child or parent need assistive technology, environmental adaptation or other such accommodations in order to attend meetings or understand the content of written and/or verbal communication? _____ yes _____ no

If yes, please explain: _____

Educational History

Preschool/Day Care Facility _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Years/Months of Attendance _____ Teacher _____

Preschool/Day Care Facility _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Years/Months of Attendance _____ Teacher _____

Please include facility literature that describes program content or curriculum.
Copies of your child's progress reports should also be submitted.

Background Information

Do you know of or suspect any problems with ____ vision or ____ hearing?

Please explain: _____

Does your child take any medications? _____

Does your child have any health problems? _____

Are there any specific home factors that might affect your child's performance in class?

Has your child previously been administered any academic/cognitive assessment? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, administered by _____ preschool _____ privately by _____

Name of test _____ date administered _____

Test results _____

(Please attach copies of results)

1. What were some early childhood indicators which demonstrated your child was advanced for his/her age?

2. What characteristics have you recently observed in your child which lead you to believe that he/she is ready for kindergarten?

3. Does your child prefer to play pre-packaged games or games he/she creates? Explain.

4. How does your child approach a challenging task? Include an example.

5. How does your child relate to his/her age peers?

6. Describe your child's preferred playmates.

7. How does your child interact with adults (i.e. community members, strangers, and neighbors)?

8. How does your child choose to spend his/her free time?

9. Does your child participate in any activities or lessons (dance, art, sports, music lessons, etc.)?

10. How does your child handle frustration?

11. What can Westerville City Schools provide your child that can't be provided without early entrance?

12. Please provide any other information that you think is important for us to know about your child.

Screening Permission Form for Early Entrance

1. I give my permission for Westerville City Schools to request information about my child from his/her preschool or daycare facility.
2. I understand that if I grant permission, my child may receive assessment(s) by designated school personnel and that the information may be shared with teachers, principals, and other appropriate school personnel.
3. I understand that the information collected from these assessments and observations will become part of the application for early entrance to kindergarten for my child.

Child's Name

Date of Birth

Address

Name of preschool/daycare facility

Contact and phone

Parent Name(s)

Parent Signature(s)

Date

Note: No assessment will be made without your permission.

RETURN COMPLETED REFERRAL PACKET TO: Gifted Ed Department, attn: District Coordinator, Westerville North High School, 950 County Line Road, Westerville, Ohio 43081; fax: 614-797-6290; call 614-797-6276.

Form Completion and Submission DEADLINE: 2ND FRIDAY IN AUGUST