



Early Access Procedure For Kindergarten and First Grade

Background Information

"Early Access" means early entrance to kindergarten at age 4 or early entrance to first grade at age 5 for highly advanced gifted children who are placed in a grade level above other same aged peers based upon the following conditions:

- The student is formally identified as gifted; and
- The student meets requirements for accelerated placement as determined in a body of evidence (e.g., achievement, ability, social-emotional factors, school learning skills, developmental characteristics, and family and school support).

A student shall be age 4 by **October 1** for kindergarten; and, age 5 by **October 1** for first grade.

In accordance with Colorado House Bill 08-1021, Eagle County Schools has established a process for identifying and serving the few "highly advanced gifted" children who require comprehensive academic acceleration. Regular public or private preschools or homeschooling meet the needs of the majority of gifted 4 and 5 year olds.

Timelines

- Eagle County Schools will begin accepting applications on **February 10**. Applications submitted prior to this date will be marked as received on February 10
- Applications are due no later than **April 1** for the following school year
- A determination will be made within 60 calendar days of the receipt of the Screening Portfolio

Outline of Procedure

I. Application

Parents submit the *Early Access Application* to the Gifted Education/Exceptional Student Services Department at Eagle County Schools.

II. Interview and Screening Portfolio

An initial interview will be conducted with the parents and the child to gain an understanding of the educational and social-emotional needs of the child. At that time, parents will also submit an Early Access Portfolio, which includes information about the performance of the child that provides evidence of a need for early access evaluation. The *Kingore Observation Inventory Parent Information Form* will be completed and included in the child's portfolio. Examples of additional items to be included are: work samples, drawings and/or photographs related to reading, writing, math, problem solving and/or creative ability, data from the child's current preschool teacher or an adult from early childhood experiences, or indicators of early access readiness factors.

The Executive Director of Exceptional Student Services and the Gifted Education Coordinator will review the portfolio and information and make an initial decision as to whether early access assessment will continue.

III. Testing and a Body of Evidence

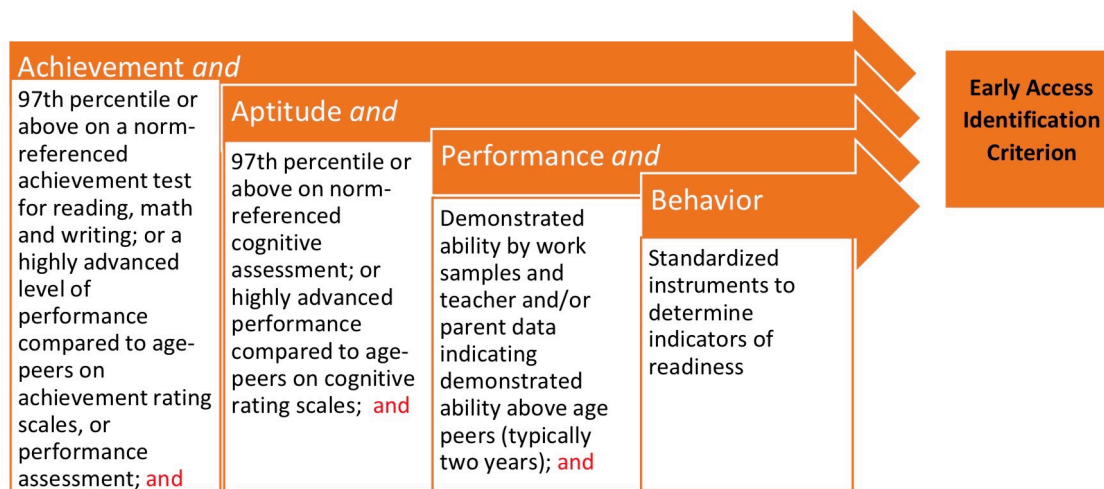
ECS personnel will conduct the necessary identification assessments. A complete profile includes

- Aptitude (cognitive) testing
- Achievement testing for reading, writing and mathematics
- Performance data (teacher rating scale)
- School readiness, social behavior and motivation data

IV. Criteria for Identification

Students must score at or above **97th percentile** on aptitude and achievement tests in order to qualify for early access. Students who do not meet the criteria will be deemed ineligible for further early access evaluation, and parents will be notified. A copy of the child's Score Report will be provided. The child's file will be retained at the district office for future reference, and his/her body of evidence may be reconsidered in a subsequent grade level.

The following pathway meets criteria for early access identification.



V. Determination

A Determination Team Meeting will be held to consider the complete body of evidence for students who have met the aptitude and achievement testing criteria. The Determination Team shall consist of ECS personnel trained in gifted and early childhood education, the building administrator, receiving teacher and parents. The determination is a collaborative consensus process. The Determination Team's decision will be documented and included in the child's file.

VI. Support

The following positive supports will be implemented for students who qualify for early access:

- An Advanced Learning Plan will be created by September 30, including a transition goal for the first year of early access
- Methods of parent-teacher communication will be designed
- Regular progress monitoring / check-in meetings will be held to ensure school success
- Gifted services will be provided by the building gifted specialist

Early Access Appeal Process

If parent(s)/guardian(s) are not satisfied with the decision to decline early access for their child, they may appeal the decision in writing in the following order:

1. Executive Director of Exceptional Student Services
2. Assistant Superintendent for Learning Services
3. Superintendent of Schools
4. Board of Education