



Miami East Local School District

8-1-2022

A Parent's Guide for **Early Entrance** *(Kindergarten and First Grade)*



Legislation Governing Early Entrance To Kindergarten and Giftedness

1. Requesting Early Admission

A parent may request *early* admission to kindergarten if the child turns five years of age before the district's kindergarten entrance date (August 1) and before January 1. The local board of education shall determine entrance through a standardized testing program.

2. Referral by an Educator

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.

3. Acceleration

State of Ohio

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.

A unique type of whole-grade acceleration is early entrance (i.e., kindergarten or first grade). For academically talented young children, early entrance to school may be an excellent option. There is abundant evidence that bright children who are carefully selected for early entrance generally perform very well, both academically and socially (A Nation Deceived: how Schools Hold Back America's Brightest Students, 2004).

Miami East Local School Districts' Procedures

1. Age Eligibility

The Miami East Local 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.

2. Early Admission Request

There are four types of acceleration that may be requested by parents for early entrance:

- **Kindergarten:** A child will be 5 before January 1st.
- **Kindergarten:** A child will **not** be 5 before January 1st.
- **1st grade:** A child will be 6 before January 1st.
- **1st grade:** A child will **not** be 6 before January 1st.

3. Board of Education Adopted State of Ohio Policy

On September 18, 2006 the Miami East 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.”

4. Annual Review of Process

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 a child 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. 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 or physical size for athletics)?
- 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 to look for in the areas of ability/achievement/aptitude/behaviour?

My child seems advanced beyond other children his/her age in these ways:

- Understands the meanings and use of words better than other children his/her age;
- Is curious about many things and asks questions often;
- Is very good at working puzzles or solving problems;
- Has a great sense of humor and understands jokes more than other children his/her age;
- Has a good memory and remembers details of conversations or stories;
- Is interested in difficult concepts such as time and space;
- Concentrates on certain activities much longer than other children his/her age;
- Reads (and understands text) in picture books or chapter books;
- Figures out math-related problems better than other children his/her age.

Expectations of Kindergarten Students

1. Introduction

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. In addition, Ohio, along with many other states across the United States, has adopted Common CORE for the purpose of preparing Ohioans to meet the demands of the knowledge-based economy and the needs of the 21st century.

What are some important school and academic factors?

My child:

- *Enjoys learning new information or skills;*
- *Participates in community-sponsored activities such as sports, dance, gymnastics, library and museum programs;*
- *Believes he/she is capable of succeeding at new tasks.*

What are some important developmental factors?

My child has the following developmental characteristics:

- *He/she has average fine and large motor coordination (i.e., holding a pencil, skipping);*
- *He/she is able to use the computer to play games or find information.*

What are some important interpersonal skills for entering school?

My child:

- *Thoughtfully considers feedback and criticism and modifies behaviour appropriately;*
- *Often behaves in a way that is positive and effective;*
- *Has good interpersonal skills with age-mates, as well as with both older and younger children and with adults;*
- *Has excellent interpersonal relationships with adults in a teaching role.*

What are some important attitudes and supports necessary for success in school?

My child is enthusiastic about going to kindergarten or first grade.

As a parent, I understand that a child's success in school depends on support provided at home. I am able to give my child additional support to help in his/her transition to a new setting with much higher academic demands than he/she encountered in preschool.

2. Ohio Department of Education Website

Parents can easily access the more information about Kindergarten as well as more information about Ohio Core on the *Ohio Department of Education* website.

ODE > Learning Supports > Early Learning and School Readiness > Kindergarten

**ODE > Learning Supports > Gifted Education > Rules, Regulations & Policies for
Gifted Education > Academic Acceleration for Advanced Learners**

ODE > Teaching > Instruction > links by subject

The *Ohio Department of Education's* website also contains useful information about the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment for Literacy (KRA-L). This is an assessment that all kindergarten students will take within the first six weeks of school.

**ODE> Testing > Kindergarten Readiness Assessment > A Family Guide to
Understanding Early Reading Skills**

3. Miami East Local School District's Kindergarten Program

Kindergarten in the Miami East Local School District is a full-day/every day program. The starting and ending times are approximately 7:30 a.m. until 2:30 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
<u>Physical Skills</u> - Does your child... <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">Materials that will help your child develop the motor skills needed to learn to write include crayons, markers, pencils, glue, scissors, paper and paint, puzzles, legos and blocks.Activities that will help your child's coordination include climbing, jumping, skipping, playing ball, using playground equipment and riding a tricycle.
<u>Health and Safety Needs</u> - Has your child... <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.
<u>Personal needs</u> - Without your help, can your child... <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.
<u>Social and Emotional Skills</u> - Does your child... <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 by visiting our web site: www.miamieast.k12.oh.us > Services tab > Gifted Services *or* call Gifted Services at (937) 335-7505 *ext. 1124* to have an information/application packet mailed.
- Once the application has been completed, it needs to be returned to Gifted Services **no later than August 1st** in the year for which admission is being requested.
- An observation by a district representative (elementary guidance counselor and/or school psychologist) in a preschool setting *may* need to be scheduled for your child. *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 your son or daughter's home school where the school guidance counselor will coordinate the evaluation process. The home schools have up to **May 10th** to complete the evaluations.
- 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

The Evaluation Process

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 enrolment process.
- The *Ohio Department of Education* has on its website a checklist for kindergarten readiness. When looking at whether early entrance is appropriate for a child, the same readiness guidelines should be considered.
- Because developmental readiness is important for success in kindergarten, students are also given the *Gesell* developmental screening test. Students who are viable candidates for Early Entrance to Kindergarten are expected to be developmentally “on track” with the typical kindergarten student. Should a student meet the cognitive criteria but fail to meet the developmental readiness assessment, the acceleration team (principal, kindergarten teacher, gifted services specialist, parent and/or legal guardian(s), guidance counselor, and school psychologist) will then discuss and reach consensus as to what placement is best for the child.

Instruments used:

INDIVIDUAL INTELLIGENCE TESTS

Woodcock-Johnson IV

Woodcock-Johnson Test of Cognitive Abilities

*According to the **Iowa Acceleration Scale (3rd ed.)**, a student who meets the Critical Item (Section III) of one standard deviation above the mean (115) is a viable candidate for acceleration. All students may move on in the process for consideration, but whole-grade acceleration is not recommended if a critical item is checked.*

Superior Cognitive identification (gifted) is 130 (minus the Standard Error of Measure, 127)

Timeline for Early Entrance to Kindergarten

August 1	Deadline for Early Entrance to kindergarten applications <i>Return application to:</i> Miami East Elementary 4025 North State Route 589, Casstown, OH 45312 (937) 335-5439 <i>ext. 6105</i>
May 10	Deadline for home schools to complete evaluations
May 31	Deadline for home schools to complete acceleration committee meetings
June 17	Deadline for written notification of outcome of the evaluation process
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* August 1st will be scheduled at the principal's discretion of the school to which the student may be admitted.

Gifted Coordinator

Sarah Waechter

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Gifted Services

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APPLICATION

Early Entrance to Kindergarten/First Grade



RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO:

Gifted Services, Miami East Elementary, 4025 North State Route 589, Casstown OH 45312

Please complete this application if you feel that your child exhibits a number of the characteristic listed in this brochure and that he/she might benefit from acceleration.

Child's Name: _____		
_____	_____	_____
Last	First	Middle Initial
Birth date: ____/____/____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
Type of Acceleration Requested (CHECK ONE):		
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Entrance to Kindergarten (my child will be 5 before January 1)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Entrance to Kindergarten (my child will NOT be 5 before January 1)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Entrance to First Grade (my child will be 6 before January 1)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Entrance to First Grade (my child will NOT be 5 before January 1)		
Address: _____		
_____	_____	_____
Street	City	Zip
Custodial Parent/Guardian Name: _____		Relationship to child: _____

Home Phone: _____	Work Phone: _____	Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____		

Preschool Experience (Please attach preschool report card if available.)

List the nursery schools, Head Start, special programs, and other day care programs attended. Include the dates of attendance and the approximate number of hours per week attended.

<u>Name of School/Program</u>	<u>Dates of Attendance</u>	<u>Number of Hours/Week</u>
_____	_____	_____
—	—	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	—	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	—	_____
_____	_____	_____
—	—	_____

Why do you feel that your child would be ready for a kindergarten or first grade program? Comment on your child's social behavior and academic skills. (Use additional paper and attach, if needed.)

Your signature indicates that you have read and understand the contents of the Early Entrance brochure. It also confirms that you have reviewed the considerations and do not feel they would negatively impact your child's success in school.

Print Custodial Parent/Guardian Name

Signature of Custodial Parent/Guardian

Date

RETURN APPLICATION AND PERMISSION FOR REVIEW NO LATER THAN MARCH 20th

PARENT CHECKLIST

EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN

The seven broad developmental dimensions provide the framework for the kindergarten instructional program. This checklist will help in determining your child's readiness for kindergarten. **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 (dressing, undressing, zipping, tying, toileting, eating)			
Uses eye/hand coordination to perform fine motor tasks (drawing, writing, and cutting)			
Uses balance and control to perform large motor tasks (walking, jumping and skipping)			

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, able to share ideas and thoughts			
Can identify most letters (uppercase and lowercase)			
Can identify some beginning sounds			
Uses 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 (circle-triangle, circle-triangle, circle-triangle)			
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 (Mom is a doctor, she helps sick people.)			
Recognizes the reasons for rules			

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

Early Entrance



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

Miami East Local School District to respond to a request for assessment for:

Name of Child

In giving my permission, I understand that any or all of the following may occur based on the timeline specified in the **Early Entrance** brochure:

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 placement); 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 for the purpose of evaluating my child as a candidate for Early Entrance.

PRINT NAME of Custodial Parent / Legal Guardian

SIGNATURE of Custodial Parent / Legal Guardian

Date