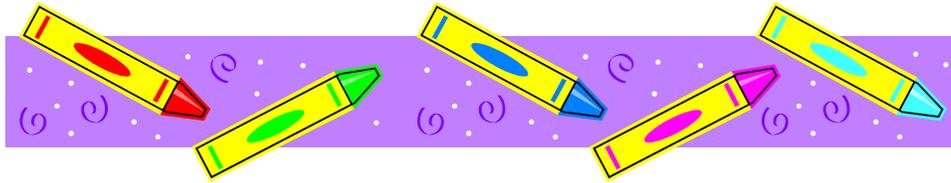


Early Entrance to Kindergarten Lancaster City Schools



Common Questions About Early Entrance

For whom is this program designed?

This program is designed for those children who will turn 5 between August 2 and December 31 who appear to be developing academically, cognitively, socially and emotionally **well beyond** their age level. Very few children meet the eligibility standards. For those children who reach the proper age after January 1, a written recommendation from the child's physician, a teacher, or psychologist who knows the child must accompany the application and the Iowa Acceleration Scale will be used as the criteria for recommendation.

How do I apply for early entrance to kindergarten?

Applications for early entrance can be picked up at neighborhood elementary schools or printed off of the district website. Please return the completed applications to the Office of Curriculum and Instruction, 345 E. Mulberry Street, Lancaster, Ohio 43130, or fax them to the Office of Curriculum and Instruction at (740)687-7303.

How will I know whether or not my child has met the criteria on the assessments?

You will be notified in writing of the results of all assessments that are administered to your child. You may also be contacted by phone to set up a face-to-face meeting before recommendations can be made.

Who should I contact if I have any questions about early entrance to kindergarten?

You may call the Office of Curriculum and Instruction at (740)687-7306 or the Coordinator of Gifted Services at (740)681-7676.

Is Early Entrance To Kindergarten the Best Thing for Your Child?

Entering school early is a decision that will have long-term effects on a child. The possible social/emotional impact on the child as he/she progresses through elementary, junior high, and high school is not predictable. With this in mind, there are some things that parents should take into consideration.

- Ohio Revised Code considers early entrance to be an acceleration. Therefore, only those students who demonstrate very high achievement as measured by assessments administered by personnel with Lancaster City Schools will be considered for early entrance.
- School entrance is an anxiety-provoking situation for children and early school experiences shape

self-confidence and influence children for the rest of their lives. We set the standards high for early entrance to ensure that students are not frustrated by their advanced placement.

What Is the Screening Process?

According to state law, a child may be referred by a parent or guardian for early entrance evaluation if the child will be the proper age for entrance by December 31st of the school year for which permission is requested.

If a child will not be the proper age for entrance to kindergarten until January 1st or after, the child may be referred by an educator, a pediatrician, or a psychologist. The building principal may also request evaluation at his/her discretion. In this case, the Iowa Acceleration Scale will be used as the criteria for recommendation.

The first thing a parent will need to do is pick up an early entrance application form (from the home school, district office, or through the district website), complete it, and return it to the Office of Curriculum and Instruction.

Next, the parent will be contacted to set up a time for the child to be assessed. The assessments that will be administered are the Kaufman Survey of Early academic and Language Skills (K-SEALS) and the Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test Second Edition (KBIT). If a child scores below the 85th percentile on the K-SEALS and/or below a 116 on the KBIT the child will not be recommended for early entrance to kindergarten and a letter will be sent to the parents. If a child scores at the 85th percentile or higher **and** 116 or above, the gifted coordinator will contact parents to set up the committee meeting. The gifted coordinator will send the Iowa Acceleration Scale to be completed by the parents and brought to the committee meeting.

The committee will review the results of the K-SEALS, KBIT, and the Iowa Acceleration Scale and make a team decision as to whether the child will be admitted to kindergarten. If the decision is to recommend the child for early entrance, a Written Acceleration Plan (WAP) will be completed during the committee meeting and a signed copy will be placed in the child's permanent folder. The WAP will include a transition plan for the successful implementation of the acceleration. After the successful completion of the transition period, the acceleration becomes a permanent placement.

Is There an Appeal Process?

A parent has the right to appeal the decision concerning early entrance. Any appeals must be made in writing within 30 days of the date of the decision to: Lancaster City Schools' Superintendent's Office at 345 E. Mulberry St Lancaster, Ohio 43130.

The decision will be reviewed and parents will be notified in writing of the final decision concerning their child's early entrance.

If you have any questions concerning the process, please call the Office of Curriculum and Instruction at (740)687-7306 or the Office of Gifted Services at (740)681-7676.