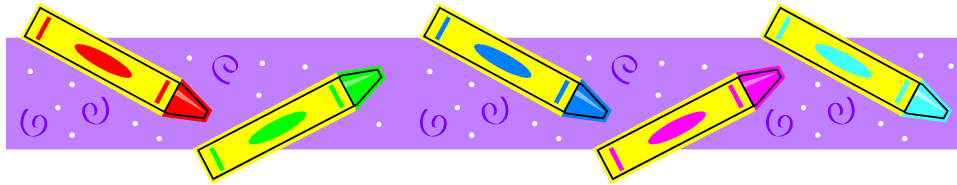


# Early Entrance to Kindergarten Lancaster City Schools



## 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. In a typical year, three or fewer children out of fifty are accepted for early entrance. If the child turns 5 after December 31, a written recommendation from the child's physician, pre-school teacher, or teacher within the district or psychologist who knows the child must accompany the application.

### 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 our website and must be turned in to the Office of Curriculum and Instruction, 2780 Coonpath Rd. NE, Lancaster, Ohio 43130.

### 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.

### 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 Office 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 within the District, a preschool teacher, a pediatrician or a psychologist. The building principal may also request evaluation at his/her discretion.

The first thing a parent will need to do is pick up an early entrance application form at the home school, 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 assessment that will be administered focuses on academic achievement and aptitude. A child must score, at least, in the 90th percentiles or higher to continue in the process. The parent will be notified in writing of the child's results on this assessment.

Next, a school psychologist will administer a state-approved, nationally standardized ability test. The child must score, at least, a 115 or higher to continue in the process. Again, the parent will be notified in writing of the results of this assessment.

The last step in the screening process is the parents will be asked to complete the Iowa Acceleration Scale. There will be a meeting of the principal, parents, gifted coordinator, and, possibly, school psychologist and teacher to evaluate all of the data and to make a decision about the child's early entrance.

## **Is There an Appeal Process?**

A parent has the right to appeal the decision concerning early entrance by contacting, in writing, the Lancaster City Schools' Director of Curriculum and Instruction at 2780 Coonpath Rd. NE, Lancaster, OH 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.