

Guidelines for Early Entrance

In accordance with Board policy JEBA - School Entrance Age Requirements regarding early entry into kindergarten and first grade, the following procedural guidelines are established.

Philosophy

Administrators and staff of the District believe that a student being considered for early admission into kindergarten or first grade must demonstrate significantly above-average ability in several readiness skills. The prognosis for a student who is allowed to enroll in kindergarten or first grade, and whose birthday falls after the lawful entrance age, should be one of a successful student.

Assessment

The nature of the assessment will require the services of a qualified school staff. The recommended assessment instruments may include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Kindergarten Assessment;
2. Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA)/EDL/Baseline Assessment System (BAS)/IRI/Running Record;
3. Early Entry Screening Test.

A child may be considered for early entry who demonstrates significantly advanced academic and social emotional skills as determined by the school early entry committee. Members of the committee are: kindergarten or first grade teachers, building principal, and a member of the school support services staff.

Optional

Testing may also be performed by a psychologist of the parent's choice, or from a list of qualified outside providers that the District has previously used. The psychologist will charge a fee for testing which will be at the parents' expense. The following formal assessments are approved by Central School District:

1. Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence - third edition;
2. Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale - fifth edition;
3. Adaptive Behavior Assessment System - third edition.

Testing needs to occur within three months of anticipated entry into school. Test scores must be in the top quartile for entering the requested grade level. All information must be received by the building principal on or before May 1.

Procedures

The following steps will be implemented with regard to evaluating candidates for early entry into kindergarten/first grade based upon a District evaluation:

1. Parent request is made known to resident school on or before May 1st and schedules an interview with the building administrator.
2. Parent interview is conducted by the building administrator.
3. Early Entry Screening Test is administered by building administrator or designee (kindergarten teacher, Title 1 teacher, or first grade teacher)
4. Upon successful completion of Early Entry Screening, DRA2 will be administered by building administrator or designee (kindergarten teacher, Title 1 teacher, or first grade teacher). Child must score at or above a level 3 on the DRA2.
5. The building early entry committee will:
 - a. Review the results of assessments and make a decision as to the student's entrance in school.
 - b. Conference with parents to share results and decision.
 - c. Approve the student who has met all of the evaluation criteria to attend class in the fall. Classroom observations will be completed by the teacher, building administrator, and possibly others.
 - d. Monitor qualified students for eight weeks and communicate to parent if the placement is appropriate.
6. Early Entrance decisions will be made or before June 1.