



## North Carolina Early Entry to Kindergarten Process

The North Carolina General Assembly passed BH-1099, allowing early admission to Kindergarten of a child who has reached his/her fourth birthday by April 16<sup>th</sup> if the child demonstrates extraordinary academic ability and maturity. The State of North Carolina has created standards for the principal to use in determining if a child is appropriate for early entrance to kindergarten. Once the principal receives the minimum requirements the principal shall confer with a committee of professional educators to consider for each child various standards that will indicate readiness.

Standards established by the state of North Carolina are described as follows:

- **Student Aptitude-** The child shall score at the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile on a standard individual test of intelligence such as the *Stanford-Binet*, *The Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence*, *the Kaufman Anderson*, or any other comparable tests, that shall be administered by a licensed psychologist.\*
- **Achievement-** The child shall score at the 98<sup>th</sup> percentile on either Reading or Mathematics on a standard test such as the *Metropolitan Readiness Test*, *the Stanford Early School Achievement test*, *the Mini Battery of Achievement*, *the Woodcock-Johnson*, *the Test of Early Mathematics (TEMA)*, *the Test of Early Reading Ability (TERA)* or any other comparable tests that shall be administered by a licensed psychologist.\*
- **Performance-** The child shall be able to perform tasks well above same-age peers as evidenced by behaviors in one or more areas such as independent reading, problem-solving skills, advanced vocabulary, and some writing fluency. The parent shall submit a sample of the child's work that shows outstanding examples of ability in any area including, but not limited to, art, mathematics, writing, dramatic play, creative productions, science, or social interactions.
- **Observable Student Behavior/Student Interest-** The child shall demonstrate social and developmental maturity sufficient to participate in a structured setting for a full school day. The child shall be capable of following verbal instructions and functioning independently within a group. The parent shall provide two recommendation letters (from non-family members) with specific documentation of physical and social maturity from preschool teachers, child care workers, pediatricians, or others who have direct knowledge of the child. Useful documentation checklists include *The California Preschool Competency Scale*, *the Harrison Scale* or any other comparable scale of early social development.
- **Motivation/Student Interest-** The principal or principal's designee shall conduct an informal interview with the child and a more structured interview to determine if the child displays a thirst for knowledge and seeks new and challenging learning situations.

**\*Parents are responsible for arranging and paying for this test. EVA can not provide a recommendation for a psychologist. It is recommended parents/guardians obtain recommendations from the child's pediatrician or family physician.**

Parents wishing to have their children considered must submit information within the first 30 calendar days of the school's instructional year. All testing should be administered after the April 16<sup>th</sup> that follows the child's fourth birthday. The principal shall decide whether to grant the parents' request for enrollment within three weeks of receiving this information. The principal may conditionally enroll the child for up to ninety days in order to observe whether the child is able to adjust to the school setting. If the principal determines that the child has not adjusted to the school setting, the principal shall deny the request for enrollment. However, before the child is exited from school, the principal shall invite the parent to assist in the development of intervention strategies for the child. If those strategies are not successful, the principal shall provide the parents at least 10 days notice before exiting the child from school so the parent may arrange child care, if needed.

Early admission to kindergarten shall not automatically result in the placement of the child in the program for academically gifted students. By the time the child has been enrolled for 90 calendar days, or at any earlier time that school officials determine that the child has adjusted satisfactorily and shall be allowed to remain in school, the Talent Development school-based committee shall review the child's information to determine if the child meets the expectations established by the LEA's *Plan for Gifted Education*. If the team determines the child is eligible to receive gifted services, it shall develop an Individual Differentiated Education Plan (IDEP) for the child.

### **Steps for Parents to Take**

1. Schedule aptitude and achievement tests with a licensed private psychologist. It is recommended you receive a referral from your pediatrician or your family physician. Testing is at the cost of the parent and must occur after April 16<sup>th</sup>.
2. If the child meets the minimum testing expectations of 98% percentile on aptitude and 98% percentile on reading, or math achievement, begin to gather work samples and letters of recommendations. If the child does not meet these expectations the process should stop.
3. Upon gathering all standard information: aptitude scores, achievement scores, performance or work samples, and letters of recommendation (from non-family members), complete the application for early admission to kindergarten (page four of this packet).
4. Submit all documentation and application to the home or neighborhood school.\*\*
5. If an administrator feels the submitted packet meets the minimum requirements, a school-based interview/assessment will be scheduled to meet the child and parent.
6. Upon a final decision regarding the placement of a candidate, parents may reach out to the appropriate learning community if questions or concerns arise.

**\*\*Please note that students wishing to be considered for Early Entry to Kindergarten are not eligible to participate in a magnet program for their kindergarten year.**

## **Is Early Entry to Kindergarten the best choice for your child?**

The early entrance for kindergarten process is designed to provide an opportunity for students to enter kindergarten early. The process is designed for students who are not only academically ready and advanced, but who are also demonstrating advanced characteristics socially, emotionally, and developmentally that would demonstrate readiness for the elementary classroom environment. Students who are ready for kindergarten early are advanced in multiple areas when compared to their same-age peers, or other four year-olds of the same birth month. Advancement is necessary in multiple areas as kindergarten's expectations are heavily based on academics and preparing our students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Many students can demonstrate academic ability based on the exposure provided by parents and day care settings; however, few children will demonstrate the aptitude, or thinking ability, needed to enter kindergarten early. When considering early entrance into kindergarten, keep in mind it is a process designed to meet the academic and social needs of the child, not as a replacement for child care. Students accepted into kindergarten early will be placed in a class where peers could be up to two years older.

The following factors and questions should be considered when determining if the early entrance process is something you wish to pursue for your child:

| <b>Questions to consider</b>   | <b>Factors/Characteristics to Consider</b>   |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is my child capable of working successfully with children who are one year older?</li> <li>• Does my child adapt well to change, or will the adjustment frustrate him/her?</li> <li>• What long term impacts will early kindergarten placement have on my child's long term academic career (e.g. beginning college and high-school a year early)?</li> <li>• Does my child ask questions to advance his/her learning?</li> <li>• Can my child read, comprehend, and/or make connections to a story? Can my child decode challenging words?</li> <li>• Does my child have an understanding of basic math concepts, such as shapes, time, number recognition?</li> <li>• Does my child demonstrate leadership with same-age peers?</li> <li>• Is my child able to maintain interest for long periods of time?</li> <li>• Does my child demonstrate a curiosity about learning new things?</li> <li>• Does my child demonstrate strong memory and recall skills?</li> <li>• Is my child able to maintain a structured schedule for longer periods of time than same-age peers?</li> </ul> | <p>My child...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Believes he/she can experience success at new tasks</li> <li>• Can maintain personal care and hygiene with little assistance from adults (e.g. use the bathroom, tie shoes, button and zip garments)</li> <li>• Thoughtfully considers feedback and adjusts behavior appropriately</li> <li>• Has the ability to focus attention for long periods of instruction</li> <li>• Demonstrates fine and large motor skills coordination</li> <li>• Can be separated from a parent without being upset</li> <li>• Demonstrates strong interpersonal skills with age-mates and older peers</li> <li>• Follows routines and schedules</li> <li>• Is enthusiastic about elementary school</li> <li>• Follow given and multi-step directions</li> </ul> |

# APPLICATION FOR EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN

Based on North Carolina Law and State Standards for Early Admission

## PARENT/STUDENT INFORMATION SHEET

It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to present information to the **home/neighborhood school** to support that the child has extraordinary academic ability and is appropriately mature to justify early admission.

STUDENT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please Print Clearly)

Last

First

Middle

BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENTS' NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

HOME/NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

| Information to Submit   | Meets Expectation  | Score (if applicable)                                 |
|---|--|---|
| <b>APTITUDE TEST SCORE OF 98%</b><br>on a standard individual test of intelligence administered by a licensed psychologist after April 16 <sup>th</sup>   | Yes _____ No _____   | Full Scale IQ Percentile _____                        |
| <b>ACHIEVEMENT TESTS SCORE OF 98%</b> on a standard individual test in reading or math administered by a licensed psychologist after April 16 <sup>th</sup>   | Yes _____ No _____<br><br><i>*Note: Score meets or exceeds 98% in reading or math.</i> | Reading Percentile _____<br><br>Math Percentile _____ |
| <b>North Carolina Standards for Early Entry to Kindergarten are that a child meets the aptitude and achievement test expectations. If a child does not meet both aptitude and achievement test expectations the process stops here and a submission to the school is not necessary.</b> |  |   |

| Information to Submit  | Please initial that the following documents are included: |
|--|---|
| <b>STUDENT WORK</b> showing outstanding ability in any of the following areas: art, math, writing, dramatic play, creative productions, science, reading, social interactions, etc.<br><i>Maximum of six items.</i> Quality will be given greater consideration than quantity. |   |
| <b>TWO LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION</b> with specific documentation of physical and social maturity from child care workers, pediatricians, or others with direct knowledge of the child (non-family members).  |   |

When submission of the information listed above meets the minimum eligibility requirements, separate interviews by school personnel with both the child and the parent(s) will evaluate the child's level of motivation and interest in learning. **In addition, the school will conduct an assessment of the child to determine an extraordinary level of kindergarten readiness.**

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_