

Franklin City Schools Early Entrance Information

Early Entrance to Kindergarten is a form of grade acceleration; it is not a waiver from the district August 1st cut-off date. It is considered a grade acceleration because the child is still 4 years old (preschool age) and has not turned the mandatory age for regular entrance to Kindergarten. Early Entrance is for the exceptional child who possesses superior ability, is academically advanced, is developmentally mature and socially ready when compared to others of the same chronological age. Since Early Entrance is a type of grade acceleration, the child should already be reading, counting, and categorizing. Typically one child in a hundred might meet the expectations required to enter school early; it is not appropriate for most children. Parents should understand that once the decision has been made for early entrance, it is difficult to reverse. It is very important that a careful and informed decision be made, and that everyone involved is supportive of the decision.

**ODE gives districts flexibility with the decision of a cut-off date and allows for a tiered approach in assessing for Early Entrance. It is each district's decision as to the procedure for those children turning five in the age bracket Aug 1st to December 31st. (Search ODE website for "[Early Entrance Guide](#)")*

Timeline for Early Entrance:

- *March 1st---Parent may pick up a *Referral Form* from Hampton Bennett.**
- *The *Referral Form* and all documentation (if attended preschool) must be submitted together.**
- *Once all documentation is received, the district will contact the parent to schedule testing.**

<p>All assessments are given to the child independently; parents must remain in the waiting area. This is a social emotional skill demonstrating that a child is able to “<i>separate from a parent without being upset</i>”. (Search ODE website for "Kindergarten Readiness Checklist" - see <i>Social Emotional Skills</i>.)</p>	
<p>Tier 1 August 1st to Sept 30th Child turns 5 years old.</p>	<p>*District decides procedures/processes/criteria for screening. The child will be assessed for various kindergarten skills...such as letters, sounds, sight words, numbers, math and reading related tasks. Will also watch the child for appropriate social-emotional interaction and will take note if the child can follow/take direction from the teacher. The child should demonstrate 90%+ when looking at overall skills and multiple data points.</p>
<p>Tier 2 October 1st to Dec 31st Child turns 5 years old.</p>	<p>*Follow district procedures/processes as well as meet the Tier 1 criteria. *The Gifted Services Coordinator will administer a nationally-normed assessment to the child. If the score is below 115 on IQ Composite, acceleration is not recommended.</p>
<p>Tier 3 January 1st or later Child turns 5 years old.</p>	<p>*Complete Tier 1 only. *School Psychologist administers a full evaluation. Inform the Gifted Services Coordinator to begin the ODE required “<i>Iowa Acceleration Scale</i>” (<i>IAS</i>) process. The <i>IAS</i> will provide guidance as to whether the child is a good candidate for acceleration or not.</p>

Strong candidates will exhibit many of the readiness characteristics listed below.

1. Ability/achievement/aptitude/behavior- *Child is advanced beyond their peers in the following way:*

- Reads and understands text in picture books or chapter books.
- Understands the meanings and use of words the same as or better than other children his/her age.
- Figures out math-related problems the same as or 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.

2. Important school and academic factors- *The child:*

- Enjoys learning new information or skills.
- Participates in community-sponsored activities i.e.... sports, dance, gymnastics, library programs...
- Believes he/she is capable of succeeding at new tasks.

3. Important developmental factors- *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.

4. Important interpersonal/social skills for entering school- *The child:*

- Is able to separate from parent without any type of difficulty.
- Thoughtfully considers feedback and criticism and modifies behavior appropriately.
- Often behaves in a way that is positive and effective.
- Has good social skills with same age peers, and/or both older/younger children as well as adults.
- Has excellent interpersonal relationships with adults in a teaching role.

5. Important attitudes and supports necessary for success in school

- The child is enthusiastic about going to kindergarten or first grade.
- The child's parents understand that his/her success depends on support provided at home. They are able to give this child additional support to help in his/her transition to a new setting with higher academic demands than he/she encountered before attending kindergarten (i.e. preschool, daycare, etc...)

*** *Other considerations: The child:***

- *Has one or more older siblings in the grade in which he/she will be placed if admitted by early entrance. In which case, acceleration may not be advisable.*
- *Often did not want to attend preschool or missed preschool often due to illness or family issues.*

If you feel your child is a strong candidate for Early Entrance, you may pick up a Referral Form from Hampton Bennett starting March 1st.

(You will be contacted by the district for a day/time to assess your child.)