

Early Entrance to Kindergarten (EEKG) FAQ:

When will the process for EEKG begin for the 2023-2024 school year?

The referral forms for parents to complete for the evaluation of their child for EEKG will be posted on March 13, 2023 on the WCS Gifted Education website. Applications can be submitted between March 13, 2023 and May 15, 2023.

When do evaluations take place?

The evaluations will take place with a Westerville Schools psychologist in late May and early June.

What is involved in the evaluation process?

The evaluation consists of a test of cognition where students will be evaluated using a nationally-normed standardized test as recommended by the Iowa Acceleration Scale. Students must exhibit advanced intellectual ability and reason to be considered for early entrance. Motor skills and socialization evaluation also allow the psychologist and evaluation team a broader picture of the child to assess readiness for kindergarten.

Early entrance is to be viewed as a way to meet a child's needs. The developmental readiness of a child is important to determining the appropriateness of early entrance. Even if a child exhibits strong ability, he/she may not be a good candidate for early entrance. It is important to also consider the child's social maturity, personal development, and motor development. Early entrance is designed for the exceptional child who is both academically ready as well as developmentally mature when compared to others his or her chronological age.

Can I register my child for Kindergarten prior to the EEKG evaluation process?

No. Kindergarten registration is only open to those children who age-qualify for entrance to kindergarten in August. Early registrations will not be accepted for students who are not 5 years old by the date cutoff determined by the district (September 30). Students who enter kindergarten early must have passed the evaluation process and then will be placed in a half-day program by the Elementary Schools team.

Is all day kindergarten an option for students who are deemed eligible for early entrance to kindergarten?

No. In the rare occasion that a child qualifies for early entrance to kindergarten, the gifted education coordinator will place the student at the school closest to the student's home which has an opening in an AM or PM kindergarten classroom.

What is IMPORTANT to know about the EEKG process?

Very few children qualify for early entrance to kindergarten. Please make sure you proceed with child care arrangements as a contingency. If you are selecting a preschool program, please understand that those programs fill up quickly. Please register your child for preschool as you normally would, but let the establishment know that your child is being screened for early entrance to kindergarten.