



## Early Entrance / Acceleration Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: How do I know if early entrance to kindergarten or first grade is the best choice for my child?**

A: The purpose of the Acceleration Placement Policy is to make learning available to children who demonstrate ability 1 to 1½ years above grade level skills. These skills include academic targets in early literacy and reading, number sense and math, as well as skills in social-emotional development, problem-solving, and communication skills. Other areas are considered such as social interaction, attention and engagement in tasks, fine and gross motor skills, and independence. Parents considering Early Entrance requests should also carefully consider:

- Students who enter school through the early entrance process must be capable of working in a classroom environment with children who are one year (or more) older
- Students social interaction must be at a maturity level that allows them to collaborate, share ideas, and build relationships with students who are chronologically older
- Early entrance to Kindergarten is not a replacement for child care
- Early enrollment in Kindergarten may have long-term effects on your child as it is difficult to predict the potential academic or socia-emotional impact on your child as they move throughout their education

**Q: What should I expect of the Early Entrance process?**

A: Students will be screened by a team of District 12 personnel. If criteria are not met, the process will end at that point. If criteria are met, the child will progress to an evaluation by the District 12 school psychologist. Parents may not be present during the screening or evaluation, but are welcome to wait in a designated area at the school. Results of the screening and evaluation will be communicated within 10 days upon their completion. The decisions made by the District 12 are final.

**Q: How will my child continued to be challenged if they are not a candidate for Early Entrance?**

A: Our excellent teachers are ready to support the needs of all of our students with rigorous curriculum, best instructional practices, and a variety of tools to differentiate the level of support for each individual child. Through our Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) student data is analyzed and used in planning individualized instruction to reinforce or enrich each student’s learning path. Your child will be provided with enriching opportunities to continue to challenge them throughout their education. You are always welcome to ask your teacher how they are being supported at school and what you can do to continue reinforcing those skills at home.

**Q: What are the deadlines I need to know?**

Early Entrance to Kindergarten	Early Entrance to First Grade	Acceleration
Application by March 1st	Application by March 1st	Application by March 1st
Proof of residency by April 1st	Register student by April 1st	X
Screenings late March-early April	Screenings late March-early April	Screenings late March-early April
Evaluations late April-early May	Evaluations late April-early May	Evaluations late April-early May
Final decision by June 1st or earlier	Final decision by June 1st or earlier	Final decision by June 1st or earlier