



Standards for Early Admission to Kindergarten

The 1997 General Assembly passed legislation allowing a child who has reached his/her fourth (4th) birthday by April 16 to enter kindergarten if he or she demonstrates an extraordinary level of academic ability and maturity. In determining eligibility, the principal shall convene a committee of educational professionals who will assist him/her in making decisions about each individual child.

Criteria that shall be considered include the following:

- Aptitude
- Achievement
- Performance
- Observable Student Behavior
- Motivation to Learn
- Student Interest

Parents wishing to submit their child for consideration for Early Admission to Kindergarten must provide:

- 1) A written request to the school principal
- 2) Documentation of ability with a score of 98th percentile (full-scale Intelligence Quotient -IQ) on an approved assessment tool, which has been administered by a licensed psychologist
- 3) Documentation of achievement with a score of two (2) to three (3) years beyond their peers. Consideration for early admission to Kindergarten must have scored in the 98th percentile on either Reading or Mathematics on a standard test of achievements
- 4) Samples of the child's work; showing examples of art, math, writing, dramatic play, creative productions, science, social interactions, etc.
- 5) Two recommendation letters with specific documentation of physical and social maturity. One of the letters must be from a pediatrician, indicating that the child is developmentally mature. The other may be from preschool teachers, childcare workers, or other adults with direct knowledge of the child.

If the child is granted early admission to Kindergarten, the principal along with school support staff will observe, interview, and document the child using the criteria and within the timeline provided below.

Student Aptitude

A student eligible to enter school early shall be precocious in academic and social development and score at the **98th percentile (full-scale score) on a standard individual test of intelligence such as the Stanford Binet, The Weschler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence, the Kaufman Anderson**, or any other comparable test, shall be administered by a licensed psychologist. Although superior aptitude is a strong indicator of extraordinary academic ability, every child with a score at the 98th percentile in intelligence may not need early admission to kindergarten. Some children could have a negative experience if the demands of a structured school day are imposed too early.

Achievement

Children entering kindergarten early shall be functioning two (2) to three (3) years beyond their peers. Children eligible for early admission to kindergarten shall score at the 98th percentile on either Reading or Mathematics on a standard test of achievements

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. An impartial professional educator who is trained in the use of the achievement test instrument may administer the achievement test as long as he/she has no potential conflict of interest in the outcome of the assessment. A licensed psychologist administers the Aptitude test.

Performance

Children displaying a need to enter kindergarten early shall be able to perform tasks well above their age peers. Some indicators the principal may observe are the child's ability in independent reading, problem-solving skills, advanced vocabulary, and some writing fluency. A child ready for kindergarten would not necessarily demonstrate precociousness in all of these areas. The parents shall submit a sample of student work showing outstanding examples of ability in any of the following areas: art, math, writing, dramatic play, creative productions, science, social interactions, etc. For a further indication of performance, the principal may instruct a teacher to complete an informal reading assessment.

Observable Student Behavior/ Student Interest

If a child is to be successful in early admission, he/she should be socially and developmentally mature enough to be in a structured setting for a full school day. The child should be capable of following verbal instructions and functioning independently within a group. Not every child with extraordinary academic ability is mature enough to attend public school early. The school system shall require **two recommendation letters with specific documentation of physical and social maturity**. One of the letters must be from a pediatrician, indicating that the child is developmentally mature. The other may be from preschool teachers, childcare workers, or other adults with direct knowledge of the child. Documentation checklists that might be useful are the **California Preschool Competency Scale**, the **Harrison Scale**, or any other comparable scale of early social development.

Motivation/ Student Interest

A child ready for early admission to kindergarten should be eager to learn and be excited about a new school experience. These children should display a thirst for knowledge consequently pushing the parents for new and challenging learning situations. If only the parent is interested in the child's attending school, early admission is not a good option. Principals or his/her designee shall determine this information **in an informal interview** with the child and in a **more structured interview** with the parent. An appropriate interview with a child would take place in a warm and inviting environment, such as the kindergarten classroom. The child might even be invited to spend a day with a kindergarten teacher. Questions the principal or his/her designee should ask the child would concentrate on the personal interests of the child. A child who is ready for school should respond with enthusiasm when asked to tell about a special collection or a topic about which he/she has a great deal of knowledge or extreme interest. A child who is a candidate may be one who watches the *Discovery Channel*, reads everything he/she can find about dinosaurs, or be able to carry on a discussion about volcanoes, etc.

Time Lines

A parent wishing to submit his/her child for consideration for early admission to kindergarten shall:

- **Present to the principal of his/her local school the required information within the first thirty (30) calendar days of the school's instructional year**
- **All testing must be administered after April 16.**

- **The principal will act on the request within three(3) weeks.**
- **If the child is admitted to kindergarten, before the end of the first ninety (90) calendar days of the child's being enrolled, the principal may rescind his/her approval based on substantial evidence documenting that the child is not adjusting satisfactorily to the school setting.**
- **Before a child may be exited from school, the parent must be invited to assist in the development of intervention strategies. If the strategies are not successful and the decision is made to remove the child from school, parents must be given at least ten (10) days notice to arrange child care if needed.**

Note: House Bill 1099 states that it is the responsibility of the principal to find that the child has the extraordinary academic ability and has the maturity to justify admission to school and, further, it is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to present information to the principal to support that the child has the extraordinary academic ability and is appropriately mature to justify early admission.

Information for the Receiving School

Although early admission to kindergarten does not automatically place a child in the program for academically gifted students, the child obviously has very special learning needs. **Once the child has been enrolled for ninety (90) calendar days or at any time before ninety (90) calendar days, once the school is satisfied the child has adjusted satisfactorily and will remain in school, the child shall be reviewed by the school's AG Team** as a possible "candidate" for the Academically Gifted Program. Local guidelines and procedures for determining whether or not a student is to be a "candidate" for the Academically Gifted Program shall be followed by the Academically Gifted Team.

Application

Upon enrolling a student, it is important to ensure that parents have received a copy of the early admission standards.

FOR APPLICATION FOR EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN SEE NEXT PAGE



APPLICATION FOR EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN

Guided by the North Carolina Law and State Standards for Early Admission

It is the responsibility of the parent(s)/guardian(s) to submit all required documentation supporting the child's extraordinary academic ability to the assigned attendance area school as justification for early admission consideration.

STUDENT NAME: _____
(PLEASE PRINT) LAST FIRST MIDDLE

DATE OF BIRTH: ____/____/____ PARENT / GUARDIAN NAME: _____
MM DD YYYY

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: (HOME) _____ (WORK): _____ (CELL): _____

ASSIGNED ATTENDANCE AREA SCHOOL: _____

Information to Submit	Scores	Meets Criteria
APTITUDE TEST SCORE OF 98TH PERCENTILE on an approved standard individual test of intelligence administered by a licensed psychologist after April 16.	Full Scale IQ Percentile: _____ Test Name: _____	YES: _____ NO: _____
ACHIEVEMENT TESTS SCORES OF 98TH PERCENTILE on an approved standard individual test IN Reading and Math administered by a licensed psychologist after April 16.	Full Scale IQ Percentile: _____ Test Name(s): _____	YES: _____ NO: _____
North Carolina Standards for Early Entry to Kindergarten require 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.		

If yes to the above criteria, submit this application with the sources of evidence listed below.

STUDENT WORK	Showing examples of art, math, writing, dramatic play, creative productions, science, social interactions, etc	Initial to confirm that these documents are attached: _____
TWO LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION	One of the letters must be from a pediatrician, indicating that the child is developmentally mature. The other may be from preschool teachers, childcare workers, or other adults with direct knowledge of the child. (non-family members)	Initial to confirm that these documents are attached: _____

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: _____