EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN OR FIRST GRADE

February 27, 2020
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The Colorado Education of Exceptional Children Act (C.R.S. § 22.20-104.5) was amended in July, 2008. It provides early access to educational services for kindergarten and first grade students to meet the unique needs of the highly advanced gifted child. It does not permit early access to all gifted 4 or 5 year olds. The child who may benefit from Early Access is academically gifted, socially and emotionally mature, in the top 2% of the gifted peer group, motivated to learn, and ready to begin school.
Application process

Step 1
- Obtain and complete an application from the TSD administration building. Applications will be available beginning on March 2, 2020 and are due April 1, 2020 by noon.

Step 2
- Screening of all applicants with the Kaufman-Brief Intelligence Test. No fees for testing.
Application process

Step 3
- If the child meets requirements on the K-BIT, we will also give the TERA and TEMA. Testing performed by district personnel. No fees for testing.

Step 4
- Review of the body of evidence (testing and portfolio) by designated review committee including a District Administrator, Gifted and Talented staff and Early Childhood educators.

Step 5
- Notification of Early Access decision to parent/guardian and school.
Applications

- Portfolio
  - Signed application
  - Home Language Survey
  - Copy of child’s birth certificate
  - Four work samples or optional letter
  - Two completed surveys (from the appropriate grade level)
    - By a parent or guardian and another adult who knows the child well, like a preschool teacher
Portfolio pieces

- Attach one half-sheet cover letter to each piece
- Check the box for the corresponding sample
- Please include at least four different samples from the five listed
- Write a brief explanation about why that piece was chosen for submission
Application submissions

- Return all documents in this envelope
- All applications are due by April 1, 2020 by noon
- Do not submit materials in a binder
- Do not submit three dimensional pieces or video
Scheduling Testing

- Parents will be contacted individually to schedule testing after April 1
- The first test will be the Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test (K-BIT)
- If the child scores at the 97%ile or higher, the Test of Early Mathematics Ability (TEMA) and the Test of Early Reading Ability (TERA) will be given
- Testing will be done at a district location over time to ensure the best results
Portfolio review

- The review committee will meet in early May to evaluate portfolio submissions and review testing data.
- The review committee consists of the GT Administrator and GT Parent Liaison, a district administrator, a GT teacher, and an early childhood teacher.
Final notification

- All notifications will be made no later than Wednesday, May 6
- Children must be enrolled in your attendance area school
- If parents want to apply for enrollment in another school, the parent will need to fill out a transfer request form
- Transfer requests are approved on a space available basis
Most school districts our size find only 1-3 students per year who qualify
Decisions

- Parents do not have to enroll their child in school if the child qualifies.
- If parents believe the decision made by the district is in error, they should file a letter of appeal with the Gifted and Talented Administrator.
Implications of Acceleration

- Older children in the grade tend to do better in school because they have had more time to mature than their grade peers.
- Acceleration is only recommended when the student will be at the top of his/her new grade.
- If you accelerate, your child will be:
  - among a class of children one to two years older
  - 17 when he/she leaves for college
  - the last of his/her peer group to get a driver’s license or get into PG-13 or R movies
  - generally shorter and smaller than other children