

Early Entrance to Kindergarten or First Grade for 2019-2020 School Year

Registration opens March 1, 2019

Information, FAQ's and Referral Form

A child must be 5 by August 1st to be eligible for regular entrance into kindergarten or six years old to be eligible for regular entrance into first grade.

In rare instances young children are already reading, counting, and categorizing, are developmentally advanced in thinking skills, language acquisition, and quantitative reasoning, and may be ready for early entrance into kindergarten. These children also need to be advanced in personal development and emotional maturity. These students may be candidates for early entrance to kindergarten or to first grade. Typically, one or two children in a hundred meet the expectations required to enter school early. Early entrance is a form of grade acceleration. Therefore, the team is not simply looking to see if a child is ready for kindergarten (or first grade); the team is investigating to see if a child is ready to accelerate a year ahead of his/her peers.

Parents need to consider that early entrance is a decision that will impact the child throughout the school experience, not just for a year or two. When accelerated children enter the middle grades or junior school, their peers may be more physically developed and have broader parental permission regarding social activities. Challenges may occur in high school as peers may have a driver's license or begin to date when the accelerated student is not eligible at that time. Parents must consider that entrance to college will follow earlier than traditionally expected, and the student will require profound maturity to effectively face adult decisions and potential pressures.

References:

- [Ohio Revised Code - Kindergarten](#)
- [Lakota Board Policy 5112](#)

What is Early Entrance?

A parent may request early admission to kindergarten if the child turns 5 after the district's deadline for kindergarten entrance. Therefore, any student turning 5 on or after August 2nd AND on or before December 31st is eligible for the assessment process.

What does the assessment process look like?

Lakota Local School District offers a thorough assessment process in order to prepare a recommendation to accept or to decline early admission. The process follows the Ohio Department of Education full assessment protocol that includes tests of ability and tests of achievement in reading and math. It is called the Iowa Acceleration Scale. An initial assessment of reading and math achievement is completed by appointment with a gifted specialist. Children who meet the minimum score requirement will be invited to meet for a cognitive ability assessment. Following the assessments, parents, an early childhood administrator, and Gifted Services will hold a conference. At that time, assessment results will be shared and discussed to determine placement.

How many students are typically recommended for Early Entrance?

Numbers vary from year to year but, last year, Lakota assessed 50 students who applied for Early Entrance. Of those 50, 7 scored at or above on the reading and math assessment to move to the second layer of assessments. Of those 7, only one was ultimately recommended for early entrance to kindergarten. That equates to approximately 2% of applicants.

How do I know if my child is a good candidate for Early Entrance?

Below are some ability/achievement/aptitude characteristics that are considered good indicators of success with Early Entrance to Kindergarten or 1st grade:

- Understands the meanings and use of words 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 or space
- Concentrates on certain activities much longer than other children his/her age
- Reads (and understands text) in picture books or chapter books
- Figures out math-related problems better than other children his/her age

Other important school and behavior-related factors:

- Enjoys learning new information or skills
- Participates in community-sponsored activities such as sports, music, library, and museum programs
- Believes he/she is capable of succeeding at new tasks
- Considers feedback and criticism thoughtfully and modifies behavior appropriately
- Behaves often in a way that is positive and effective
- Has good interpersonal skills with same-age peers, as well as older and younger children, and adults
- Has excellent interpersonal relationships with adults in a teaching role

What are some factors that are strong indicators that Early Entrance is NOT right for my child?

- The child has one (or more) older sibling(s) in the grade in which he/she will be placed.
- The child did not want to attend preschool or missed school often because of illness or family issues.
- There is not extra time in the day to provide additional support to my child that he/she may need in order to transition to a new setting with higher academic demands.

How do I begin the assessment process?

Please complete and return the attached referral form to the Lakota Central Office. Please bring the following *original* paperwork to the Lakota Central Office for a staff person to make copies:

1. Child's Original Birth Certificate
2. Parent or Guardian's Driver's License or other Photo ID
3. Proof of Residency: Current Lease, Current Mortgage Statement, Settlement Statement, Purchase Contract, or Current Tax Bill

Once the registration process is complete, parents will need to schedule an appointment for academic testing.

What are the steps in the process?

- 1) Complete the attached form: Referral for Early Entrance to Kindergarten or First Grade.
- 2) Bring to Central Office the documents listed above and on the referral form attached.
- 3) Sign-up for academic testing (instructions will be provided when the referral form is completed).
- 4) Parents will be contacted by the Gifted Services Department with the results and may be asked to bring back their child for further testing and a conference.

****APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8AM and 2PM OR BY APPOINTMENT****

Please check website for any modifications to the schedule.

What can I expect during the testing/evaluation process?

- Your child will work with a Gifted Intervention Specialist to gain a score in reading and math achievement.
- A minimum ability score in reading and math is required to continue testing and have a team meeting.
- You will be notified by phone within 48 hours as to whether your child has met the minimum ability, and then you will need to make an appointment to continue testing.
- If your child does not meet the minimum ability required, testing will stop, and entrance to kindergarten will occur in the next school year.

How will I be informed whether or not my child has met the criteria?

As noted above, the Gifted Services Department will contact the parent/guardian with the results of the assessment within 48 hours and, if applicable, schedule a time to assess cognitive ability.

What if my child is not recommended?

Recommendations for or against Early Entrance are made in the child's best interest. All recommendations are given based on what is best for the child at this point in his/her development. If Early Entrance is not appropriate at this time, grade or subject acceleration may be investigated at a later time in the school career. If parents believe that results of the testing are not accurate, they may appeal by following the appeal process

found on the website.

What if I change my mind after my child has been recommended?

A recommendation for Early Entrance to Kindergarten is the professional opinion of the evaluation team that the child will succeed in such a placement. Parents may choose to enroll their child when age appropriate.

May I use the results from an independent evaluation?

- Yes, the results of any independent assessment will be considered if the instruments used are on the list of approved instruments for identification of gifted students by the Ohio State Department of Education and are administered by a licensed psychologist. A copy of test results and credentials of the psychologist will need to be submitted for review. Achievement results provided by the licensed psychologist may also be considered and accepted for use in the Iowa Acceleration Scale.

What is the timeline of events?

- **March 1, 2019**—Registration for Early Entrance opens
- **Late May/ Early June 2019**—Academic and Cognitive assessments take place
 - Parents will sign up for slot. Directions will be given once the application is complete.
 - Gifted Services will notify the family of the results within 48 hours and schedule a follow up session if moving to the next round of assessment.
- **June 18, 2019**—Final date requests will be accepted for early entrance for the 19-20 school year.
 - The only exception will be those that are able to document a move into the district after this date.

Referral Form- PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**Registration opens March 1, 2019**

- I have read the information, and I believe that my child exhibits a number of the characteristics that are considered good indicators of success for Early Entrance to Kindergarten or 1st grade.

Child's Name _____ DOB _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail _____

Lakota Early Childhood School to Attend in 2019-20 _____

Home Language _____ Will a translator be needed? _____

Parent Name _____ Parent Signature _____

Type of Acceleration: (Please choose one.)

_____ Early Entrance to Kindergarten _____ Early Entrance to 1st Grade

Preschool Information:

Preschool Name _____ Phone Number _____

Preschool Address _____

Dates Attended _____ Most Recent Teacher _____

Email to send evaluation _____ My child did not attend pre-school.***Documents needed BEFORE Early Entrance Testing can be scheduled:***

Please bring the following *original* paperwork to the Central Office located at 5572 Princeton Rd., for the Gifted Services Dept to make copies:

1. Child's Original Birth Certificate
2. Parent or Guardian's Driver's License or other Photo ID
3. Proof of Residency: Current Lease, Current Mortgage Statement, Settlement Statement, Purchase Contract, or Current Tax Bill

Once referral and documents are received, you will receive instructions on how to schedule an assessment slot. Testing dates are in early June.

****APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8AM and 2PM OR BY APPOINTMENT****Lakota Gifted Services, 5572 Princeton Rd. Liberty Township, OH 45011, 513-644-1186, giftedservices@lakotaonline.com