



2008-2009



**A Parent's Guide to
Early Entrance
to Kindergarten**

Should you consider Early Entrance to Kindergarten for your child?

- ◆ Kindergarten is a full day program. It is an academically rigorous program that stresses language arts, math, social studies, and science, as well as social, emotional and physical development.
- ◆ The potential social/emotional impact that entering school early will have on your child as he or she progresses through elementary, middle, high school, and beyond is not predictable.
- ◆ It is important to remember that a child who enters kindergarten early will be younger than his/her classmates throughout his/her academic career.
- ◆ The standards for early entrance are high to ensure that students are not frustrated by their advanced placement.
- ◆ Prekindergarten may be more appropriate for some children.

What are the expectations of students in Kindergarten?

The PGCPSS kindergarten curriculum is a challenging instructional program that includes:

- ◆ a daily 135 minute Reading/English Language Arts block,
- ◆ daily 75 minutes of Mathematics
- ◆ a daily 45 minute Science block
- ◆ a rotating 45 minute Social Studies/ 30 minute Health block
- ◆ regular assessments to monitor progress and plan for continued instruction,
- ◆ small and large group exploration of concepts, and
- ◆ independent learning activities.

Contact your boundary school to find out more information and schedule a visit to a kindergarten class.

How do I apply for Early Entrance to Kindergarten?

- ◆ The application can be obtained from your boundary school.
- ◆ Applications will be accepted at the boundary area school beginning March 31 through May 30.

Why do children applying for Early Entrance have to be assessed when other children entering Kindergarten do not?

Children who turn 5 on or before September 1 are age-eligible and therefore entitled to enter kindergarten. A child whose birth date falls between September 2 and October 15 may be considered for early entrance.

What are the assessment procedures?

- ◆ A qualified examiner will test the child, score the test, and explain the test results, along with the eligibility decision to the parent or court appointed guardian.
- ◆ Every early entrance decision is individual to the child applying. There is no one answer; each child's strengths and needs will be weighed.

What are the examiners looking for in the assessments?

Children cannot study or prepare for developmental readiness. Assessments include a variety of activities that measure each child's progress in the following developmental domains:

- ◆ Personal and Social Development
- ◆ Reading/English Language Arts Development
- ◆ Mathematical Thinking

What are the assessment ratings?

In order to qualify for Early Entrance to Kindergarten your child must score 90% or better in each of the domains.

What if my child does not make 90% or better in each of the domains on the assessment?

Parents have 2 weeks from the assessment date to appeal the results.
Appeals must be put in writing and sent to:

Department of Academic Support
Early Childhood Office
9201 East Hampton Drive
Capitol Heights, MD 20743

Parents will be notified of the outcome within two weeks of the date the appeal letter was received.

What happens once my child is enrolled in Kindergarten?

A probationary period occurs for any student offered early entrance. The school will review the child's progress to determine whether the probationary early entrance status continues or is terminated. If termination is deemed appropriate by the School Instructional Team (SIT), parents will be notified by October 31.