A Parent's Guide to Early Entrance to Kindergarten

Is Early Entrance to Kindergarten the best choice for your child?

- The standards for early entrance are high to ensure that students are not frustrated by their advanced placement.
- Although a capable young child needs to be challenged, those challenges should be **closely aligned with his or her social and emotional development**
- Young children are emotionally vulnerable and may become stressed and anxious when adult expectations for their performance exceed their development capabilities.
- Children admitted to kindergarten through early entrance will be the youngest in his or her class, often a year younger than many peers.
- Prekindergarten may be more appropriate for some children.

What does the Kindergarten program look like?

- Kindergarten is a full day program. It is an academically rigorous program that stresses language arts, math, social studies, science, and health, as well as social, emotional and physical development.

How do I apply for Early Entrance to Kindergarten?

- The application can be obtained from your boundary school.
- No application for early entrance will be accepted **after** June 1st.

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

- According to Maryland law, 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.
- The intent of the early entrance program is to make kindergarten available to younger children who demonstrate **above average performance as measured by assessments** administered by Prince George's County Public School District.

What are the assessment procedures?

- A qualified examiner will test the child in a separate location from the parents, score the test, and explain the test results, along with the eligibility decision to the parent or court appointed guardian.
- The test is only administered one time to each child. **Children cannot be retested for any reason.**

What are the examiners looking for in the assessment?

- Children cannot study or prepare for developmental readiness. However, students will be better prepared if they have received adequate sleep the night before along with a proper breakfast.
- Assessments include a variety of activities that measure each child's progress in the following domains:
  - Reading/Language Arts Development
  - Mathematical Thinking
  - Spelling
  - Personal and Social Development is also taken into consideration

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 **mailed** to:

  Early Childhood Office
  Owens Road ES
  1616 Owens Road
  Oxon Hill, MD 20745
  (240) 724-1924

- Parents will be notified of the outcome within two weeks of the date the appeal letter was received.
- Parents may appeal the decision of the Early Childhood Office to the Office of Appeals within two weeks of the notice of the denial of the earlier appeal.
- In addition, applicants who are denied admission into kindergarten will not automatically qualify for prekindergarten. In order to be placed in prekindergarten, **children must meet the criteria and guidelines set by the Maryland State Department of Education and Prince George's County Public Schools**.

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 **academic, as well as personal/social 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 within 60 calendar days of entrance in the program.