

Early Access (Entrance Age) Requirement Procedures

(Procedures for the Exceptions to September 30 Kindergarten or First grade enrollment)

1. Children may enter kindergarten and first grade in accordance with GWSD School Board Policy JEB.
2. Any child who turns five years old after September 30 will only be considered for early entrance, under HB1021, if they are deemed to be a "highly advanced gifted child". The intent of HB1021 is to serve the "highly advanced gifted child" who is "academically gifted, socially and emotionally mature, motivated to learn, ready for advanced placement, and has exhausted the resources of preschool or home schooling" (CDE Fast Facts, June 2008). The same holds true for children who turn six years old after September 30 related to first grade entrance.
3. Parents must, at their expense, have their child diagnostically evaluated with approved instruments by an appropriate state licensed professional. Parents should seek out a licensed professional who enjoys gifted children and has tested many of them. Such a person knows how to recognize the reflective child who needs extra time to hone answers, how to support the perfectionist who is not used to making mistakes, and how to help the active child maintain focus with a fast presentation and opportunities to move around. Good rapport is critical for eliciting the child's best performance. The evaluation must include comprehensive social/emotional, cognitive, and academic functioning using current standardized assessment tools. As a part of the entrance criteria, all scores must be at or above the 97th percentile rank and result in a "good" or "excellent" rating on the Iowa Acceleration Scale. Parents may contact the Director of Special Services for evaluator recommendations. Assessment results must be submitted to the Director of Special Services by April 1st for consideration for the following school year. New residents to Gunnison County may contact the Director of Special Services for an exception to this deadline.
4. An early entrance candidate may participate in a visitation and/or teacher observation day in the spring, prior to the next school year.
5. The Early Access Committee, comprised of the gifted education representative, school psychologist and a kindergarten classroom teacher will review assessment data and make a recommendation for placement using the Iowa Acceleration Scale. The committee will complete the "Determination for Early Access Form" and will communicate the decision reached with the parents and the building principal. The original form will be placed in the student's Cum Folder. Copies of the form will be sent to Parents, the Principal, the GT Teacher, the School Psychologist and the Director of Special Services.

6. If a determination is made for early access, an Advanced Learning Plan will be developed and must be clearly marked "Grade Acceleration" for both Kindergarten and First Grade.
7. The final decision on early kindergarten entrance takes into consideration the criteria listed in item 2 above. If the child is placed in school as an early entrance student and does not meet classroom expectations, the district reserves the option to recommend withdrawal within 30 days of entrance.
8. A kindergarten or 1st grade student transferring from a district where the entrance age criteria vary from September 30th must submit documentation from the previous school. Documentation must include comprehensive social/emotional, cognitive, and academic functioning using current standardized assessment tools that place the child in the 97th percentile, or above, in all areas.
9. The final decision for early access rests with the Early Access Committee.
10. If there is a disagreement with an identification decision, a right of appeal is available. A parent, student, teacher, or administrator may initiate the appeal process by notifying the Director of Special Services.