



Orrville City Schools Early Entrance Frequently Asked Questions

Students who turn five by August 1st are deemed ready to enroll in kindergarten, according to Orrville City Schools' district policy. This date is appropriate for most children, although there are occasions when a younger child may be academically and socially advanced. By parent request, a child may be tested for early entrance to kindergarten if s/he will be five years old between August 2nd and December 31st. Additionally, if your child turns five after January 1st and you believe s/he is a viable candidate for early entrance, you may contact the Gifted Services office at 330-682-5811 to discuss the district acceleration policy.

1. *Why early entrance and is it right for my child?*

Early entrance should be viewed as a means of meeting a child's needs. Early entrance is designed for the exceptional child who is both academically ready and developmentally mature when compared to others his/her chronological age. Children may have a lot of ability, but are not ready for kindergarten. Social maturity, personal development, and motor development are important factors for a child's success in school.

2. *When does someone request assessment for early entrance?*

Early entrance information/application packets may be obtained from the Orrville City Schools Board Office (Gifted Services). Once the application has been completed, it needs to be returned to Gifted Services no later than the second Friday in May in the year for which the admission is being requested.

3. *How does the process work?*

- The referral is made and parents grant permission to test. The school psychologist will coordinate the evaluation process and schedule a screening appointment.
- The initial appointment is a full cognitive assessment, which may take up to approximately one hour. Students must score at least a 115 in order to continue with the process. This minimum score is based on research and critical item requirements on the Iowa Acceleration Scale.
- Students who meet the minimum requirement will be given an achievement test administered by the school psychologist.
- When all of the data is collected, a placement/acceleration evaluation committee will meet. This committee may include: the building principal, Kindergarten teacher, gifted coordinator, school psychologist, and parent/guardian

4. *When does the assessment take place?*

Students referred by the second Friday in May will be assessed by the end of June.

5. *Who conducts the assessment?*

The district school psychologist conducts most of the assessments. The placement team completes the Iowa Acceleration Scale, a tool used to summarize the data and generate placement recommendations.

6. *What information is used to determine if a child may enter Kindergarten early?*

Assessment for early entrance uses information from an intelligence test that measures a child's ability to think, solve problems, and understand new material. The assessment also includes a test of academic skills and an evaluation of the child's social, emotional, and physical maturity.

7. *Who makes the decision to place or not place a child in Kindergarten early?*

The placement team, typically consisting of the parents, school psychologist, gifted coordinator, building principal, and a teacher, will make decisions about placement for children who complete the entire assessment process. The decision is a result of the group's consensus based on the data collected during the process. If consensus cannot be reached, the majority opinion will be used.