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**A Parent’s Guide to**

**Early Entrance**

**to Kindergarten**

**Perry Local School District**

*4325 Manchester Avenue, Perry, OH 44081*

Telephone: (440) 259-9200

Fax: 440-259-3607

**Legislation Governing Early Entrance to Kindergarten and Giftedness**

* A parent/guardian may request *early* admission to kindergarten if the child turns five years of age after the district’s kindergarten entrance date (August 1 or September 30) and before January 1. The local board of education shall determine entrance through a standardized testing program.
* Children who will not yet be the proper age for entrance to kindergarten (or first grade by the first day of January) of the school year for which admission is requested shall also be evaluated for possible early admittance if referred by an educator within the district, a pre-school educator who knows the child, or pediatrician or psychologist who knows the child.
* Early Entrance to kindergarten is a subject typically addressed through gifted education. It is covered in the State of Ohio’s *Model Student Acceleration Policy*. According to the Ohio Revised Code (3324.01), “gifted” means students who perform or show potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared to others of their age, experience, or environment and who are identified under Division (A), (B), (C) or (D) of Section 3324.03 of the Revised Code.

**Perry Local School District**

* The Perry Local School District considers a child eligible for entrance into kindergarten if s/he attains the age of five (5) on or before **September 30th** of the year s/he applies for entrance.
* By parental request a child may be tested for *early* admission to kindergarten if s/he will be five (5) years of age between October 1st and December 31st, inclusive, and exhibits the mental, social and emotional standards established by the Perry Board of Education. **If your child turns 5 years of age after January 1st and you believe s/he is a viable candidate for Early Entrance, the parent/guardian may refer that child to Student Services for an Early Entrance Assessment.**
* The Early Entrance to kindergarten process shall be reviewed annually by the Early Entrance to Kindergarten Committee.

**Is Early Entrance to kindergarten the best choice for your child?**

Early Entrance should be viewed as a means of meeting a child’s *needs*. The key to determining whether or not Early Entrance is appropriate is developmental readiness. Even though a child may have a lot of ability, s/he may not be ready for kindergarten. Social maturity, personal development, and motor development are important factors for a child’s success in school.

Early Entrance is *designed for the exceptional child* who is both academically ready and developmentally mature when compared to same-aged peers. Early Entrance is designed to meet the needs of developmentally advanced children.

Early Entrance is designed for the child who, not only has strong kindergarten readiness skills, but demonstrates advanced thinking and reasoning abilities.

Some considerations when determining if Early Entrance is right for a child:

* Is my child capable of working in a classroom setting with children who are one year older than he or she?
* Will my child be frustrated by the academic demands of Kindergarten?
* What are the possible long-term impacts for my child as s/he progresses through elementary, middle and high school (e.g., beginning college at a younger age).
* Early Entrance is not designed as a replacement for child care. Is this a *need* or a *want*?
* Do I understand the expectations for students in kindergarten today?

There is a difference between *ability* and *achievement*. Some children may appear exceptional simply because of their access to opportunities (e.g., preschool programs, parents working with them on skills, or access to learning materials.

Once the decision has been made for Early Entrance, the choice is difficult to reverse. If a child is evaluated as a good candidate for Early Entrance to kindergarten, it is important that everyone is supportive of the decision.

**What is expected of students in kindergarten?**

* Kindergarten, like many other areas of education, has changed considerably over the past several years. Today’s kindergarten students are engaged in a rigorous instructional program. Please take time to review the kindergarten curriculum at ***<http://www.perry-lake.k12.oh.us/ourdistrict.aspx?id=6500>*** on the Perry Website.
* Parents can access the *Early Learning Content Standards* as well as the subject specific *Academic Content Standards* for English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies on the *Ohio Department of Education* website. In addition, the *Ohio Department of Education’s* website contains useful information about kindergarten, in particular, the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment for Literacy (KRA-L). There is a family guide on the Early Learning and School Readiness (ELSR) link about the KRA-L, which all kindergarten students will take within the first six weeks of school.

[***www.education.ohio.gov***](http://www.education.ohio.gov)

**Ohio Department of Education (ODE)**

*(*[*www.education.ohio.gov*](http://www.education.ohio.gov)*)*

**Kindergarten Readiness Checklist**

To do well in school, children need to be supported and nurtured in all areas of development.

It is also important that your child is physically, socially and emotionally ready for school. This checklist can help serve as your guide. Please remember, young children change so fast. If they cannot do something this week, you may see them do it a couple of weeks later.

**Is your child ready for kindergarten? Ask yourself these questions:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Development Area** | **Tips and Activities to Help Prepare Your Child** |
| **Physical Skills** Does your child…* enjoy outdoor play such as running, jumping, and climbing;
* draw and trace basic shapes;
* cut with scissors;
* bounce a ball;
* ride a tricycle?
 | * Materials that will help your child develop the motor skills needed to learn to write include crayons, markers, pencils, glue, scissors, paper and paint, puzzles, Legos and blocks.
* Activities that will help your child’s coordination include climbing, jumping, skipping, playing ball, using playground equipment and riding a tricycle.
 |
| **Health and Safety Needs** Has your child…* had required shots *(or provide a signed waiver);*
* had a dental exam;
* had a vision exam;
* learned own first and last name;
* learned to watch for cars when crossing the street;
* learned to not talk to strangers;
* developed a set routine for going to bed;
* learned to follow safety rules?
 | * Help your child learn his or her full name, address and telephone number.
* Help your child to look both ways when crossing the street.
* Talk with your child about strangers and who to go to for help.
* Use bedtime as the opportunity to read to and talk with your child.
 |
| **Personal Needs** Without your help, can your child…* use the bathroom;
* wash hands;
* brush teeth;
* use tissue to blow nose;
* button and zip up shirts and pants;
* put on and take off coat;
* tie and/or use Velcro shoes?
 | * Create morning and bedtime bathing and tooth-brushing routines.
* Allow your child to dress themselves.
* Practice putting on shoes.
* Help your child learn to use their words to tell other grownups when they are feeling sick or hurt.
 |
| **Social and Emotional Skills** Does your child…* play well with other children;
* separate from a parent without being upset;
* share with other children;
* care about the feelings of others;
* follow routines;
* put toys away when asked?
 | * Give your child small chores to learn responsibility.
* Help your child learn to follow directions by giving simple steps.
* Encourage your child to share.
* Praise your child when he or she does something well.
* Provide guidance when your child is having difficulty.
 |

**Applying for Early Entrance to Kindergarten**

* If you believe that your child may be a good candidate for Early Entrance, please request this in writing using Referral Form in Appendix A. Send or drop this form off at Perry Elementary School. Deadlines for receipt of completed applications are as follows:

April 30th for May screening

or

July 15th for August screening

**How will my child be evaluated for Early Entrance to Kindergarten?**

* Screening will be completed by a team consisting of a kindergarten teacher, a speech/language pathologist, and a School Psychologist. If the student meets qualifying criteria for screening, an Early Entrance Application packet will be sent to the parent/guardian for completion. Upon completion of the application, parent/guardian should return application packet to the School Psychologist at Perry Elementary School.
* Following receipt of the completed application, parent/guardian will be contacted by the School Psychologist to schedule an appointment for a comprehensive evaluation.
* Students who demonstrate strong thinking/reasoning abilities and who also demonstrate appropriate maturity, kindergarten readiness skills, speech development and fine-motor skills, will participate in a more comprehensive evaluation process. This state involves completion of individual ability, aptitude and achievement measures along with completion of the Iowa Acceleration Scale, 3rd Edition. Developmental factors, interpersonal skills, and student attitude/support are all considered as part of this evaluation.
* Once this comprehensive evaluation in completed, an Acceleration Evaluation Committee will convene to determine if the student is a good candidate for Early Entrance. This committee may include the following:
1. The building principal
2. A kindergarten teacher
3. A parent *or* legal guardian of the referred or a representative designated by a parent *or* legal guardian of the referred student
4. A Director of Student Services/Gifted Coordinator
5. A School Psychologist
6. Guidance Counselor
* Parents/Guardians will be informed in writing of the committee’s decision within 45 days of the evaluation.

Children who are accepted for early admission to kindergarten will follow the Written Acceleration Plan Guidelines. Parent/Guardian should register child in kindergarten upon team’s determination of early entrance. The Acceleration Evaluation Committee will convene to create a Written Acceleration Plan (WAP).

**Timeline for Early Entrance to Kindergarten**

**April 30 Deadline for receipt of written request for Early Entrance for May screening.**

**July 15 Deadline for receipt of written request for Early Entrance for August screening.**

* + Applications received after the deadlines will be scheduled at the principal’s discretion.

**IMPORTANT**

During this process, please make sure you proceed with child care arrangements as a contingency. If you are selecting a Preschool program, please understand that those programs routinely fill up quickly. Please register your child as you normally would, but let the preschool know that your child is being screened for Early Entrance to kindergarten.

Perry Local School District

Office of Student Services

Tarbuck Center

4325 Manchester Avenue

Perry, OH 44081

440-259-9201

*Director of Student Services: Amy S. Harker*

440-259-9201

harkera@perry-lake.k12.oh.us

*Perry Elementary School Principal: Jodi Poremba*

440-259-2781

porembaj@perry-lake.k12.oh.us

*School Psychologist: Diane Pietrzak*

440-259-2781

pietrzakd@perry-lake.k12.oh.us

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**Perry Local Schools**

**Early Entrance Referral Form**

Student’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth:

Parent/Guardian’s Name(s):

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please explain why you feel this student should be accelerated:

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Name of Person Referring: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of person initiating the referral: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to the School Psychologist.

*School Psychologist will contact Parent/Guardian to schedule screening appointment.*

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*Office Use Only*

*Date Referral Received:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

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**Perry Local Schools**

**Early Entrance Appeal Form**

Student’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth:

Parent/Guardian’s Name(s):

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please explain reason why you are seeking the appeal for the determination of early entrance:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Name of Person making appeal: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Student:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of person initiating the appeal: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to the Building Principal.

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*Office Use Only*

*Date Appeal Received:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*