



WAYNE LOCAL
SCHOOLS

**Early Entrance to Kindergarten
Packet**

WAYNE LOCAL SCHOOLS

625 Dayton Road, Waynesville, OH 45068

What is Wayne Local Schools' Early Entrance to Kindergarten policy?

According to Ohio HB 114, each school district shall admit to kindergarten any student who is five years of age by the first day of instruction of the school year of admittance. If a child's fifth birthday is after the first day of instruction, early admittance decisions shall be made in accordance with district policy. Wayne Local Schools treats all requests for early entrance to kindergarten as whole-grade acceleration. If a child turns five after the first day of kindergarten, the parent(s) can make a referral, and the child shall be evaluated for early admittance in accordance with the district's acceleration policy.

Is early entrance to kindergarten the best choice for your child?

Early entrance is to be viewed as a way to meet a child's needs. The developmental readiness of a child is important in determining the appropriateness of early entrance. Even if a child exhibits strong ability, he/she may not be a good candidate for early entrance. It is important to consider the child's social maturity, personal development, and motor development, as well.

Early entrance is designed for the exceptional child who is both academically ready as well as developmentally mature when compared to others of his/her chronological age. Some considerations in determining the appropriateness of early entrance:

- Is my child capable of working in a classroom setting with children who are one year older?
- Will my child be frustrated by this placement?
- What are the possible long-term impacts for my child as he/she progresses through elementary, middle, and high school?
- 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?

There is a difference between ability and achievement. Some children may appear exceptional simply because of their access to opportunities such as preschool programs, parents working with them on skills, or access to learning materials. Early entrance is designed for the child who not only has the ability but easily achieves when presented with new material.

If a child is determined to be a good candidate for early entrance to kindergarten, it is important that all stakeholders are supportive of the decision.

What is expected of students in kindergarten?

Kindergarten has changed considerably over the past several years. Today's kindergarten students are engaged in a rigorous instructional program. Please review the Early Learning and Development Standards on the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce (ODEW) website. To access this document, go to www.education.ohio.gov and search "early learning and development standards." You can also review other valuable information related to early entrance and kindergarten. On the ODEW's website, search "kindergarten readiness checklist."

How will my child be evaluated for early entrance to kindergarten?

If you believe your child may be a good candidate for early entrance, please complete the attached referral form and submit it to the Gifted Coordinator via email, kboggs@waynelocal.net, or by mail to Wayne Local Schools, Gifted Department: Early Kindergarten, 625 Dayton Road, Waynesville, Ohio 45068.

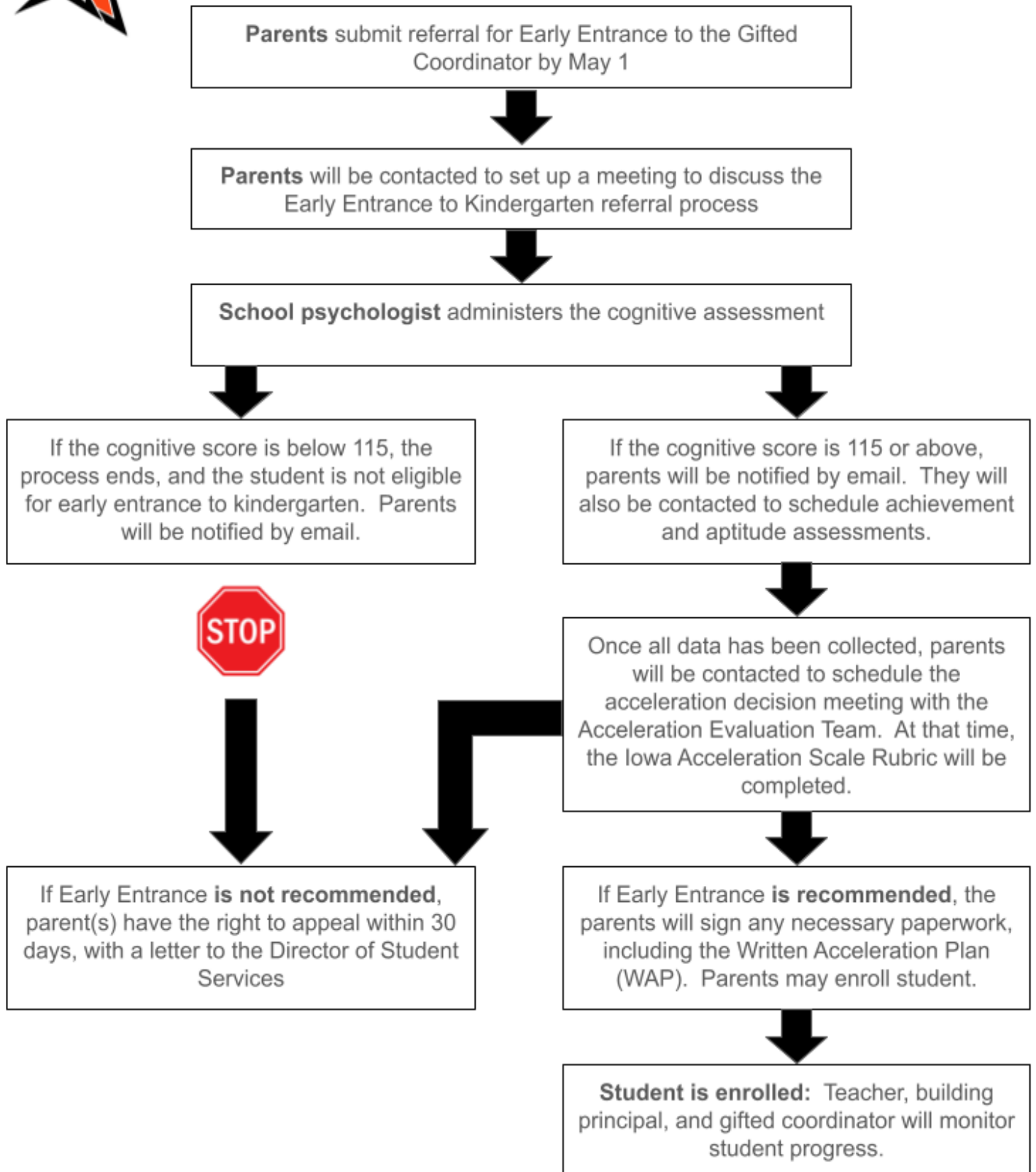
Once the referral has been received, the Gifted Coordinator will contact you to coordinate a meeting to discuss the early entrance referral process. The full referral process can be reviewed on the attached WLS Early Entrance to Kindergarten flowchart.

You will be notified of the outcome of the evaluation process within 45 days of the submission of the referral. You may appeal the committee decision in writing to the Director of Student Services within 30 days of being notified of the committee's decision.

Students are expected to be developmentally "on track" with the typical kindergarten student. Should a student meet the criteria for cognitive ability but fail to meet developmental readiness items, the team will discuss and reach a consensus as to the best placement for the child.



WLS EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN FLOW CHART



*Acceleration Evaluation Team consists of: Parent, School Psychologist, Principal and Gifted Coordinator



Wayne Local Schools Early Entrance to Kindergarten Referral Form

Student Demographic Information

Name: _____ Gender: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Parent Name(s): _____ Cell: _____
Address: _____ Email: _____

Educational History (Please include copies of your child's progress reports)

Preschool/Day Care Facility: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
Months of Attendance: _____ Teacher: _____

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Months of Attendance: _____ Teacher: _____

Background Information

Do you know or suspect any problems with ____ vision or ____ hearing?
Does your child take any medication? _____
Does your child have any health problems? _____
Are there any specific home factors that may affect your child's performance in school? _____

Has your child previously been administered any academic/cognitive assessments? __Yes __No
If yes, administered by: _____ on (date): _____

*Please attach copies of results

Please respond to the following questions:

1. What were some early childhood indicators that demonstrated your child was advanced for his/her age?
2. What characteristics have you recently observed that lead you to believe your child is ready for kindergarten?
3. How does your child approach a challenging task? Include an example.
4. How does your child relate to his/her age peers?
5. Describe your child's preferred playmates.
6. How does your child interact with adults (e.g., community members, strangers, neighbors)?
7. How does your child choose to spend his/her free time?
8. Does your child participate in any activities (e.g., dance, art, sports, music lessons, etc.)?
9. How does your child handle frustration?
10. Please provide any other information that you think is important for us to know about your child.

Consent for Early Entrance Evaluation

- I give permission for Wayne Local Schools to request information about my child from his/her preschool or daycare facility.
- I give permission for Wayne Local Schools to complete assessments by designated school personnel and understand that the results may be shared with teachers, principals, and other appropriate school personnel.
- I understand that the information collected from these assessments and observations will become part of the application for early entrance to kindergarten for my child. I further understand that my granting of consent is voluntary and I may revoke consent at any time.

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Parent Name(s): _____

Parent Signature(s): _____ Date: _____

RETURN COMPLETED REFERRAL/CONSENT TO:

Wayne Local Schools

Gifted Dept: Early Kindergarten

625 Dayton Road

Waynesville, OH 45068

Email: kboggs@waynelocal.net