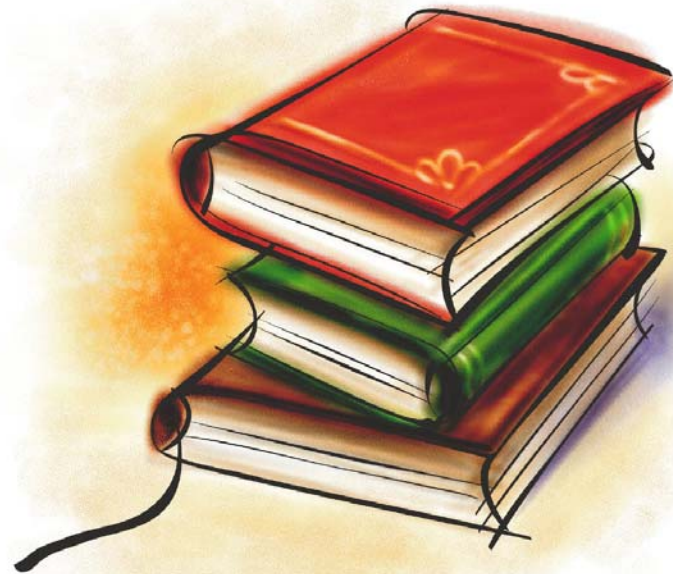


## **Important Considerations For Kindergarten Early Entrance**

- Kindergarten has changed! It is now an academically rigorous program that stresses language arts and math, as well as social and emotional development.
- Frederick County Schools have much in place to challenge the 'highly able' student. From independent work in kindergarten to placement in grades 1-5 magnet school, Frederick County Public Schools is organized to challenge the highly able learner.
- Young children can become anxious and stressed when expectations for their performance exceed their developmental capabilities.
- There is inconsistent, variable research that early entrance either hurts or helps students. However, a child who is exceptional and successful at an early age may not maintain such academic strength as the work becomes more difficult and abstract in later years.
- It is important to remember that a child who enters kindergarten early will be younger than his/her classmates throughout his/her academic career. This means that in high school students will be driving, dating, and having jobs, while the child who entered kindergarten early will be too young to do these things.
- Every early entrance decision is personal to the child applying. There is no one answer; each child's strengths and challenges must be weighed.

For all of these reasons, Frederick County Public Schools takes the request for early entrance very seriously. The goal is for Frederick County Public Schools to work collaboratively with the parent/guardian to ensure that the best decision is reached.

# Kindergarten Early Entrance



## Kindergarten Early Entrance

Exceptions to the state-mandated age of entry policy are granted by Frederick County Public Schools when it appears that a child is ready in all areas of development: cognitive, social and emotional. **The child must be born no more than 45 days after the regular date of entry.** No one test can properly assess a young child's development; therefore, Frederick County Public Schools has established a process to assist with making the best early entry decision possible. This process includes reviewing the parent/guardian's reasons for wanting early entry, reviewing the child's academic and social information, and assessing the child in additional academic areas.

The intent of this process is to make kindergarten available to younger students who are capable of learning and working with older children. Because Frederick County Public Schools takes this decision very seriously, the standards for early entry are very rigorous. The goal is to ensure that children are not frustrated by the challenges of the kindergarten program and the effect that early placement has for years to come.



## Kindergarten Early Entrance Process and Timeline

1. The parent/guardian requests an 'Early Entrance to Kindergarten Application' from the child's home school. At that time, a meeting is scheduled between the parent/guardian and the school administrator to talk about early entrance. If the child has not attended a preschool program, some screening may take place at the school. If the child has attended a preschool, an academic/social profile is completed by the pre-school personnel. (March-May)
2. The parent/guardian forwards a formal application to the Office of Early Childhood Education. The child's preschool, if applicable, forwards the completed profile to the Office of Early Childhood Education. (April-May)
3. The Curriculum Specialist for Early Childhood Education contacts the parent/guardian about the child's status for early entrance, and a date for additional assessment, if needed. (April-June)
4. The Early Childhood Education Evaluator completes an assessment of the child. Approximately one hour in length, the assessment includes a review of math, language arts, and social skills.
5. Parents are informed of the acceptance or denial of their request for early entrance following the assessment. (May-August)
6. A probationary period occurs for any student offered early entry. The school reviews the child's progress to determine whether the probationary early entrance status continues or is terminated. (September-October)