

FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	Reg. No. 400-89
Subject: KINDERGARTEN – EARLY ENTRANCE	Issued: 3/5/08
Preparing Office: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT	Amended: 6/9/14

I. Policy

II. Procedures

A. Overview

The early entrance to kindergarten program identifies exceptions to the state-mandated age of entry for children whose curriculum achievement level far exceeds the norm. The intent of the program is to identify highly able children whose birthdays missed the regular September 1 cut-off for kindergarten entrance by no more than 45 days.

To be considered for an early entrance exception, the child must turn five years of age between September 2 and October 16, and must exhibit advanced skills in language arts and mathematics. Information from prior experiences will be gathered to verify the child's social and emotional strengths.

B. Application Process

Parents/legal guardians may request an application for early entrance from the child's home school. All information must be provided to the Office of Early Childhood Education by May 31. If a child has moved to Frederick County after the May 31 cut-off date, applications may be accepted until the workday before school begins if verification of the recent move to Frederick County is demonstrated.

Additional information about the application process may be found on the FCPS Web site at the [Kindergarten Early Entrance](#) link.

Parents/legal guardians will receive a timely response of the acceptance or denial of their request for early entrance to kindergarten.

C. Screening Process

The coordinator of Early Childhood Education, in conjunction with the principal, is responsible for managing the screening process. Screening procedures will be used to assess academic abilities. In addition, information gathered about academic, social, and emotional capabilities will be considered.

D. Early Entrance: Appeal Process

The parents/legal guardians may appeal early entrance decisions by writing a letter within ten (10) days of notification that their child has not been accepted. An appeal committee comprised of an elementary director, the language arts curriculum specialist/designee, and the mathematics curriculum specialist/designee will meet no later than ten (10) days after receipt of the appeal letter to review the matter prior to rendering a decision. The decision of the appeal committee will be forwarded to the parent/legal guardian through the Office of Early Childhood Education. Such decision may then be appealed within ten (10) days of receipt of

the decision directly to the instructional director who serves as the Superintendent's designee. Parents/legal guardians who wish to appeal the decision at the Superintendent's level may do so in accordance with Board Policy 105.

E. Early Entrance: Probationary Period

Once a child has been accepted into kindergarten, based on early entrance guidelines, there will be a 45 instructional day probation period. If there are concerns about the child's academic progress either by the parent/guardian or by school personnel, a re-evaluation will occur prior to the end of the probation period. The child will be expected to meet grade level expectations for Quarter 1 and will have shown academic progress since entry. If the child is not meeting these expectations, school personnel and/or the parent/guardian may decide to withdraw the child. However, if the parent/guardian disagrees with the decision of school personnel to withdraw the child the parent/guardian may follow the same Appeal Process as outlined in paragraph D above.

F. Early Entrance: Children Who Were Granted Early Entrance from a Maryland Public School and Transfer to FCPS Mid-Year

Children who were admitted to a Maryland public school outside of Frederick County based on early admission criteria of that county will be admitted to FCPS kindergarten at any point during the kindergarten year.

Approved:

Original signed by

Theresa R. Alban
Superintendent