EARLY ACCESS PROCESS

FOSTERING ACADEMIC SUCCESS
THROUGH THE ACCELERATION OF YOUNG GIFTED CHILDREN

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GT Resource Teachers
OUR PURPOSE
WHAT IS EARLY ACCESS?

Early Access is an optional educational program to include "highly gifted" underage learners in educational programs for kindergarten and first grade who are:

- Academically ready
- Emotionally ready
- Behaviorally ready
The following pathway meets criteria for early access identification.

**Achievement and**
- 97th percentile or above on a norm-referenced achievement test for reading, math, and writing; and

**Aptitude and**
- 97th percentile or above on norm-referenced cognitive assessment; and

**Performance and**
- Demonstrated ability two or more years above same-age peers; and

**Behavior**
- Standardized instruments to determine indicators of readiness

**Early Access Identification Criterion**
WHAT ARE THE STATE CRITERIA?

A child admitted under the Colorado Early Access provision must demonstrate high:

+ **Aptitude** at or above the 97th percentile
+ **Achievement** at or above the 97th percentile
+ **Performance** at or above the 97th percentile
+ Readiness for advanced placement
+ Observable advanced social behavior
+ Motivation to learn
+ **Support** from parents
Colorado Department of Education-Fast Facts
Jeffco Board Policy
OUR PROCESS
Complete  **Developmental History**

+ Complete Permission for  **Classroom Observation**
+ A letter from the parent(s) of the child requesting Early Access
+ **Complete online the Parent Information Form**
+ **Complete online the School Information Form** (GT office will send the Gifted Rating Scale to be completed by an education profession indicated on this form)
+ 4-6 carefully selected items in a Portfolio format as outlined in the **Kingore Portfolio Assessment Guidelines** document.
  - Please fill out an **artifact (1/3 sheet) description** form for each selected item.
+ **Complete online My Child’s Strengths**
  - **English** | **Spanish**

The Early Access Packet /Portfolio is due on March 24, 2017 to The Director of Gifted and Talented at the Jefferson County Education Center in order to be scheduled for cognitive testing. No exceptions.
TIMELINE

- Application Closes
- Portfolios Due
- Cognitive Testing (DAS or WPPSI)
  - Achievement Testing (TEMA & TERA)
  - Preschool observations by GT and ECE Departments
  - Committee review meeting to review portfolios & decide placement
- Letters to Early Access parents with placement decisions & results from assessments
- School visits for families
- Early Access Placement meetings with principal, teacher, parents and GT department
COGNITIVE ASSESSMENT

- Wechsler Preschool & Primary Scales of Intelligence - WPPSI
- Differentiated Abilities Scales - DAS
ACHIEVEMENT

- Test of Early Mathematical Abilities - TEMA
- Test of Early Reading Abilities - TERA
- Kauffman Assessment Battery for Children - KABC
REVIEW PORTFOLIO/OBSERVATIONS
CONDUCTING OBSERVATIONS

Early Access
Common Protocol for Observations

Child's Name: __________________________ Age: __________
Observer's Name: ______________________ Observation Location: __________
Date of Observation: ________________

Please keep the following five points in mind as you observe the child, noting any pertinent information. Remember, this is a tool to gather information that will help the child transition into the early childhood classroom.

1. Interactions with peers:

2. Interactions with adults:

3. Transitions between activities:

4. Focus/attention span:

5. Sensory issues / evidence of overexcitabilities:
SELECTION COMMITTEE
CDE C-GER review
October Count
Early Access Addendum

The student must reach the age of four by October 1 for kindergarten.
The student must reach the age of five by October 1 for grade one.
EARLY ACCESS ACCEPTANCE & PLACEMENT FOR 2009-2014

Cohort groups from 2009-2014

Number of Students

- Accepted through Early Access process
- Accepted Placement

Cohort #1
Cohort #2
Cohort #3
Cohort #4
Cohort #5
Cohort #6
# THE STATS

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SUPPORT STRUCTURES
Early Access

To meet the needs of highly advanced children who have not yet entered kindergarten or first grade, Jeffco Public Schools may grant early entrance to school.

This process is not for typical children who miss the October 1 Kindergarten entrance date. [Jeffco Board of Education Policy - IHBB-R](#).

Early Access into kindergarten or first grade was established by House Bill 1021, effective July 2008.

- The student must reach the age of four by October 1 for kindergarten.
- The student must reach the age of five by October 1 for grade one.

Fast Facts for Early Access

Who will benefit from HB 1021? The HB 1021 defines that 4 or 5 year old child who is “highly advanced gifted child.” The child is academically gifted, socially and emotionally mature and in the top 2 percent or less of the gifted population.

For an overview module on Early Access, please click here

Application Process

- **Apply** - Opens in January (January 3, 2017 – April 1, 2017)
- Receive Early Access / Developmental History Form Packet from GT Office – Generated from application
- Early Access Packet / Portfolio (Due by March 24, 2017)
- Early Access Team will contact parents with completed and qualifying portfolio to schedule Cognitive Testing.
- The Early Access Cognitive Testing cost $250 (waived for families who have qualified for the free/reduced lunch program)
- Cognitive Testing will be scheduled.
Boredom, underachievement, perfectionism, and succumbing to the effects of peer pressure are predictable when needs for academic advancement and compatible peers are unmet.