



Dear parents,

You have requested Early Access for your child & the following is provided to you to help ensure you understand the background of Early Access (EA) as well as the PPBOCES processes in considering your child for EA .

Changes in Colorado law, resulting from House Bill 1021 2008, allow school districts the choice of offering the opportunity to identify and serve highly advanced gifted four-or-five-year old children who require comprehensive academic acceleration through Early Access to either Kindergarten or First Grade. It is the intent of the law that Early Access is not intended for all children who are gifted, but rather that there are some children for whom Early Access is an appropriate educational decision. Children for whom Early Access is being requested must either be four years of age by the state date for Kindergarten October 1) or five years of age by the state date for first grade (October 1).

A 4 or 5 year old children who may benefit from EA is considered a "highly advanced gifted child". Highly gifted is defined in this bill as a child who is academically gifted, socially and emotionally mature, and scores at the 97th percentile or higher on tests of cognitive abilities and achievement. This child is in the top 2% of the gifted peer group, motivated to learn, ready for advanced placement, and has exhausted the resources of quality preschool programs or home schooling. In the case of gifted education, PPBOCES acts as the Administrative Unit (AU) for our nine rural and small rural member districts. As the AU, PPBOCES is responsible for helping districts and families navigate the EA procedures within an administrative role leaving decision making.

It is the intent of Pikes Peak BOCES and our member districts to begin a child's educational career with a positive experience. This procedure is a collaborative process that arrives at a decision that is in the best interest of the child. I look forward to working alongside you in this process.

Trish Reitinger M.Ed/Ed.S

Assistant Director Exceptional Students



