

Early Access for Highly Gifted Students



Big Sandy # 100J
Calhan RJ1
Edison #54 JT
Elbert #200
Ellicott #22
Fremont RE-2
Hanover #28
Miami-Yoder #60JT
Peyton #23JT

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Information and Application Updated 2024

EARLY ACCESS FOR HIGHLY GIFTED STUDENTS

General Information

- The Colorado Exceptional Children's Act (ECEA) allows highly gifted students, who do not meet the age requirement for enrollment into kindergarten or first grade, to apply for Early Access into school.
- House Bill 1021 stipulates that districts may count in their enrollment and receive State Educational Funds for highly advanced gifted students who meet the criteria established by Colorado.
- The district must abide by the rules promulgated by the State Board of Education.
- The district may charge a reasonable fee for the Early Access process.
- District responsibilities:
 - Provide early access information to parents
 - Educate teaching staff and community about Early Access

Definition

Early Access is defined as a highly gifted four-year-old child entering kindergarten, or a five-year-old entering first grade. **A highly gifted child is defined as a gifted child whose body of evidence demonstrates a profile of exceptional ability or potential compared to same-age children. A child may be identified as gifted, but still not qualify for Early Access.** To meet the needs of highly advanced development, early access to educational services may be considered as a special provision.

Early access into school is regarded as a form of acceleration. The decision to accelerate a child can have a profound effect of the child's academic and social performance for the remainder of his/her school career. Therefore, Pikes Peak BOCES adheres to a thorough set of research-based procedures to determine if a child is eligible for Early Access.

Application Process:

Parent/Guardian accesses the Early Access Application packet through the Pikes Peak BOCES website or may request a mailed copy by contacting Pikes Peak BOCES. Early Access into kindergarten requires the student be four years old by the first day of school or five years old by the first day of first grade. The parent/guardian must provide a copy of the birth certificate at the time of the application submission.

- The parent/guardian must complete the entire application. Application must be submitted by the last Friday in March. Submittal arrangements should be made through Jennifer Locke, Coordinator of Gifted Education, jlocke@ppboces.org or 719-684-5985. **Applications will NOT be accepted after the last Friday in March deadline.**
 - Per the Military Interstate Compact Agreement, any applications submitted after this deadline are allowed **ONLY** for students who have relocated to a member district within the Pikes Peak BOCES due to parental/guardian military orders. Proof of orders are required and should be included in the application. Determination for Early Access with this agreement will be made no later than requested district of attendance start date. This is the only exception.

1. A complete application must include the following:
 - Initial Application completed and signed (see page 5)
 - Copy of child's birth certificate (child must be 4 the first day of kindergarten, or 5 the first day of first grade)
 - Proof of residence (the child must be living within the Pikes Peak BOCES member district's boundaries)
 - A Letter of Request by legal parent(s)/guardian(s) stating why you believe Early Access is appropriate for your child, including any explanations and/or examples that give evidence of your child's highly gifted abilities
 - Pikes Peak BOCES Information Release Form (see page 7)
 - Any previous private/public school assessment data if applicable
 - Any other supporting anecdotal information (letters of recommendation from teachers, coaches, or mentors; report cards or evaluations; examples of observable behaviors)
 - Student portfolio of work
2. A student portfolio of work must include artifacts that the child has completed within the past year. Each document should be dated. The portfolio should include but is not limited to the following examples of student work:
 - Knowledge of number sense
 - Knowledge of beginning alphabet sounds
 - Knowledge of shapes
 - Knowledge of colors
 - Examples of writing
 - Evidence of reading ability
 - Evidence of student interests
 - Samples of student drawings/artwork
 - Any other items the parent deems appropriate
3. Upon submission of completed application and student portfolio, a team of educators knowledgeable of gifted education and early childhood development will evaluate the application and portfolio utilizing the Early Access rubric (see page 6). The parent/guardian will be notified of the team's decision as to moving forward in the process.
4. The following procedure will be followed if the student moves to the next level of the Early Access process:
 - A license/trained professional will administer the Test of Early Mathematic Ability (TEMA) and the Test of Early Reading Ability (TERA) no later than the **last Friday in April**.
 - Parent/Guardian will be notified immediately if child scored the minimum of 97th percentile on given assessment. **BOTH assessments: TEMA and TERA** scores have to be at or above the 97th percentile. *If one assessment does not meet the minimum, testing will not continue and the process will conclude indicating child does not qualify.*
5. The final step of Early Access Process:

- A Pikes Peak BOCES school psychologist will administer the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSI) by **the third Friday in May**. Candidate must score a minimum of the 97th percentile to advance in the process.
- Parent/Guardian will be notified of committee's decision based on data from entire process within one week of administration of WPPSI.

Early Access Team Members

Members of the Early Access team will consist of the following professionals:

- Pikes Peak BOCES Gifted Education Coordinator
- A member district's Gifted Education Facilitator
- Administrator from prospective member district
- School Psychologist
- Other members as deemed appropriate

Dispute of Findings

Parent/Guardian disputes may be made in writing stating reasons for dispute within five days of the most recent step completed in Early Access Process.

- Meeting between Pikes Peak BOCES Coordinator and parents/guardians to review data is scheduled. Resolution achieved.
- If no resolution, a meeting between the Pikes Peak BOCES Director of Exceptional Students and/or an Administrator from potential school district will be scheduled. Resolution achieved.

Non-acceptance:

No further application for Early Access will be considered at any other school district within Pikes Peak BOCES. Student files are transferred to the receiving school district within Pikes Peak BOCES for instructional programming for the appropriate year and grade. All materials including application contents, portfolio and testing results become the property of Pikes Peak BOCES.

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Early Access Criteria Established by Colorado Exceptional Child Education Act and Pikes Peak BOCES for the early identification of a highly gifted child includes:

- Score of 3 or 4 on every portfolio submission utilizing the performance rubric
- Portfolio review and/or student observation demonstrated appropriate developmental social-emotional and motivational behaviors
- Reading achievement, writing achievement, math achievement and intellectual scores of **97th or above** on overall composite score to advance.

Application for Early Access for Highly Gifted Students

Deadline is the last Friday in March

Student's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Today's Date: _____

Student's Address: _____

Requested School of Attendance: _____

Requested Grade: _____ Requested School Year: _____

Person making request: _____ Phone: _____

Relation to student: _____ Email address(es) _____

I hereby confirm that all information on this application submitted on behalf of this student is true and factual to the best of my knowledge.

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

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Early Access Portfolio Rubric

Student Name: _____

Requested Grade: _____

Requested School: _____

Current Age: _____ Evaluator: _____

Portfolio items should be evaluated relative to the appropriate developmental and social-emotional level of students for the grade the student is requesting to enter. If there is not a portfolio sample for one of the designated fields, leave the scoring area blank.

<i>Demonstrates knowledge of or ability to:</i>	4 Evidence of developmentally appropriate mastery of learning objective	3 Evidence supports some development towards learning objective	2 Evidence shows early attempt at developmentally appropriate learning objective	1 Evidence does not support developmental understanding of learning objective
Number Sense				
Alphabet Sounds				
Shapes				
Colors				
Write				
Read				
Specific Interest				
Drawing/Artwork				
Other				

Comments:

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Early Access Consent & Release Form

By signing this form, you acknowledge all information contained in the completed application, portfolio and Early Access process will be property of Pikes Peak BOCES.

The Pikes Peak BOCES Gifted Education Department would like to administer a brief battery of ability and/or achievement testing. These tests are assessments that will provide information to determine eligibility for early access into kindergarten or first grade.

By signing this form, you give permission for your student to be administered assessments including, but not limited to: Wechsler Preschool Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSI), Test of Early Mathematics Abilities (TEMA) and Test of Early Reading Abilities (TERA).

Please sign and return this form with the completed Early Access Application.

Our/my child, _____, has permission to be given the above listed assessments, consent to release information and I acknowledge all aspects of the Early Access Process becomes property of Pikes Peak BOCES upon submission.

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date