



# **PARENT'S GUIDE**

For  
**Early Entrance to Kindergarten**

**2015-2016**



**McCracken County Schools**  
**5347 Benton Road**  
**Paducah, KY 42003**  
**270-538-4000**

## Legislation Governing Early Entrance to Kindergarten

- The General Assembly changed the statutory cut-off date in 2012 for initial admission to public schools from October 1 to August 1 and created an early enrollment option for those students not meeting the birthday deadline but wishing to attend kindergarten.
- A parent may request early entrance to kindergarten if the child turns five years of age after the state's kindergarten entrance date of August 1. Entrance shall be determined through standardized testing, parent ratings, and Early Entry Committee review.
- Senate Bill 24 (SB 24), enacted during the 2012 Regular Session, amends [KRS 158.030](#) by requiring each local school board to adopt a policy for parents or guardians to petition the board to enroll a child who does not meet the kindergarten age requirement of turning 5 years of age on or before October 1. It's important to note the kindergarten age requirement of turning 5 years of age changes to August 1 in the 2017-2018 school year. The policy must include an evaluation process that will help determine a child's readiness for school.

## Is Early Entrance to Kindergarten the Best Choice for Your Child?

Early entrance should be viewed as a means of meeting a child's **needs**. The key to determining whether or not early entrance is appropriate for a child is developmental readiness. Even though a child may have a lot of ability, he/she may not be ready for kindergarten. Other important factors to consider are social maturity, personal development and motor development.

Early entrance is designed for the child who is both academically ready as well as developmentally mature when compared to others his/her chronological age.

### Some considerations when determining if early entrance is right for a child:

- Is my child capable of working in a classroom setting with children who are one year older than he/she?
- Will my child be frustrated by this placement?
- What are the possible long-term impacts as my child progresses through elementary, middle and high school (i.e., beginning college at a younger age)?
- Do I understand the expectations for students in kindergarten today?

There is a difference between **ability** and **achievement**. Some children may appear exceptional simply because of their access to opportunities (i.e., preschool programs, parents working with them on skills or access to learning materials). Early entrance is designed for the child who has high ability and **easily achieves** when presented with new material.

Once the decision has been made for early entrance, the choice is difficult to reverse. If a child is evaluated as a good candidate for early entrance to kindergarten, it is important that all stakeholders are supportive of the decision.

**Below are examples of what to look for in the areas of ability, achievement, aptitude and behavior.**

My child seems advanced beyond other children his/her age in these ways:

- Is curious about many things and asks questions often;
- Is very good at working puzzles or solving problems;
- Has a great sense of humor and understands jokes more than same age peers;
- Has a good memory and remembers details of conversations or stories;
- Is interested in difficult concepts such as time and space;
- Concentrates on certain activities much longer than same age peers;
- Reads and understands text in picture books or chapter books;
- Figures out math-related problems better than same age peers.

## **Expectations of Kindergarten Students**

Kindergarten, like many other areas of education, has changed considerably over the past couple of decades. Today's kindergarten students are engaged in a rigorous instructional program. Kentucky, along with many other states across the United States, has adopted Common Core for the purpose of preparing Kentucky students to meet the demands of the knowledge-based economy and the needs of the 21st Century.

### *What are some important school and academic factors?*

My child:

- Enjoys learning new information or skills;
- Participates in community sponsored activities such as sports, library and museum programs;
- Believes he/she is capable of succeeding at new tasks;
- Has the ability to attend or pay attention for relatively long periods of instruction;
- He/she can draw and trace basic shapes and cut with scissors.

### *What are some important developmental factors?*

My child has the following developmental characteristics:

- He/she is able to use the computer to play games or find information;
- He/she can use the bathroom without adult help;
- He/she can button and zip up shirts and pants, tie or Velcro shoes and put on and take off his/her coat;
- He/she is able to separate from parent without being upset;
- He/she has average fine and large motor coordination (i.e., holding pencil, skipping, balancing).

**Once all of the required acceleration documents have been received, arrangements will be made to begin the evaluation process.**

Parent/guardian will schedule a screening at the McCracken County Schools central office, 5347 Benton Road, Paducah, Kentucky 42003. The screenings will be given by McCracken County certified personnel and will include (hearing and vision screening, developmental screening, and Kindergarten readiness screening). The parent or guardian will be asked to complete a parent questionnaire. Screenings will take place in June.

District Early Entry Committee will review all requests and make recommendations to McCracken County Superintendent.

Parent/guardian will receive written notification from McCracken County Schools regarding recommendation. Parent/guardian will take the written notification to the school and continue the registration process.

—*or*—

Parent/guardian will receive written notification from McCracken County Schools if child is not recommended for early entry. Parent/guardian will be provided information for pursuing enrollment in McCracken County Preschool.



## KINDERGARTEN READINESS CHECKLIST

The seven broad developmental dimensions provide the framework for the kindergarten instructional program. This checklist will help in determining your child's readiness for a kindergarten program.

**Please read each statement and indicate, by placing a checkmark, how you rate your child's abilities.**

<b>PHYSICAL WELL-BEING AND MOTOR DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>FREQUENTLY</b>	<b>SOMETIMES</b>	<b>NEVER</b>
Performs self-help tasks independently (dressing, undressing, zipping, tying, toileting, eating)			
Uses eye/hand coordination to perform fine motor tasks (drawing, writing, cutting)			
Uses balance and control to perform large motor tasks (walking, jumping, skipping)			
<b>PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT</b>	<b>FREQUENTLY</b>	<b>SOMETIMES</b>	<b>NEVER</b>
Shows eagerness to learn (curious, likes to investigate)			
Follows rules and routines (cleans up at play time)			
Handles change and transition (dinner time to bedtime)			
Interacts easily with one or more children			
Separates easily from parent			
Listens (attends) for at least 10 minutes			
<b>LANGUAGE AND LITERACY</b>	<b>FREQUENTLY</b>	<b>SOMETIMES</b>	<b>NEVER</b>
Listens for meaning in stories, discussions, and conversations			
Speaks clearly, able to share ideas and thoughts			
Can identify most letters (uppercase and lowercase)			
Can identify some beginning sounds			
Uses letters and words to write			
<b>MATHEMATICAL THINKING</b>	<b>FREQUENTLY</b>	<b>SOMETIMES</b>	<b>NEVER</b>
Can recognize numbers 0-20			
Can orally count forward to 20			
Can recognize, duplicate, and extend simple patterns (circle-triangle, circle-triangle, circle-triangle)			
Can recognize and duplicate basic shapes			
<b>SOCIAL STUDIES</b>	<b>FREQUENTLY</b>	<b>SOMETIMES</b>	<b>NEVER</b>
Describes roles and responsibilities of people (Mom is a doctor, she helps sick people.)			
Recognizes the reasons for rules			
Recognizes self and other as having same and different characteristics			
<b>SCIENTIFIC THINKING</b>	<b>FREQUENTLY</b>	<b>SOMETIMES</b>	<b>NEVER</b>
Uses a magnifying glass to look at different objects			
Can describe and sort objects by one or more properties			
Uses the five senses to make observations about the natural world			
<b>THE ARTS</b>	<b>FREQUENTLY</b>	<b>SOMETIMES</b>	<b>NEVER</b>
Likes to paint and draw, can share ideas about drawing			
Likes to sing and dance			
Can recognize basic colors			



## EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN EVALUATION AND REVIEW PERMISSION FORM

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

In giving my permission, I understand that any or all of the following may occur in accordance with the Kentucky Department of Education & McCracken County Schools Early Entry regulations.

- Administration of Assessments (e.g. cognitive, achievement, aptitude, and any other appropriate measures to determine appropriate placement);
- Review of relevant records;
- Observation(s) of my child;
- Interview with caregiver and/or parent/guardian;
- Early Entry Committee Evaluation meeting

No assessment, evaluation or review will be done without your written permission.

I understand that if I grant permission, my child will receive assessment(s) by designated school personnel and that their information may be shared, as required, with teachers, principals, and other appropriate school personnel.

\_\_\_\_\_ Permission is given to conduct the evaluation and review

\_\_\_\_\_ Permission is denied

Print Name of Parent/Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Note:** Granting permission does not guarantee early entry.

**Please return this form with application to requested school  
NO LATER THAN MAY 20**