

**A GUIDE TO:
EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN
FAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Early Entry to Kindergarten Applications will be available online at
the FCPS website beginning Aug. 15 to October 7.**

The application can be found under the *Programs* tab on the gifted and talented or magnet pages. It may also be found on the Kindergarten Page to the tab on the left under the *Kindergarten* link. Please note that this application is for the following school year. Students who are granted early entry status will be able to enroll into kindergarten during the spring of the following school year. Parents who do not have computer access may pick up a paper application from the District Gifted and Talented Department, 450 Park Place, Lexington, KY.

Kentucky requires students to turn five years of age by August 1st in order to begin kindergarten. The state allows parents to petition for their children to enter school earlier than the state age requirement if they believe their child is academically, socially, and emotionally ready for kindergarten. Parents must first fill out an Early Entry Application to begin the process.

To be considered for early entry kindergarten placement in Fayette County Public Schools

Students must:

- **Turn 4 by Oct. 31 in order for parents to apply for early entry. This process is completed one year in advance due to the length of the process and for staffing of Kindergarten classes.**
- **Apply between August 15 and October 7.**
- Take a pre-academic test which measures their readiness with letters, sounds, numbers, and language development. This test is normed for a child's exact age.
- Score a minimum of 96%ile or higher on the standardized pre-academic assessment.
- Be evaluated on their social and emotional readiness if they have received the required assessment scores.
- *Attend their districted home school.

Students who apply for early entry may also apply for magnet schools within the district. Parents may apply for magnet programs from **August 15th to October 7th** and the online magnet program applications can be found under the Programs Tab under Gifted and Talented/Magnet.

*Placement in magnet programs is contingent upon the decision of an early entry placement by the school. Please be aware that children who are accepted through early admission must attend their districted home school or the school they are accepted into based upon their magnet lottery offer.

Academic Readiness

Standardized Testing is used to determine a baseline or starting point for student learning to evaluate academic readiness skills for early entry. It can also be used to assist teachers in their instruction for each child once they do enter school. Students are assessed on their letter knowledge, letter sounds and phonics, writing their first and last name, vocabulary, and basic math skills (simple addition and subtraction with objects). Cognitive, or reasoning, abilities are critical to achieving a match with a child's school placement. Several measures exist that provide not only an estimate of overall cognitive advancement but a sampling of special abilities as well. Included are, for example, measures of vocabulary, verbal reasoning of both an abstract and an everyday nature, quantitative reasoning, construction of figures requiring analytic and integrative abilities, and so on

Social and Emotional Readiness

Social and emotional readiness are an important part of a child's transition into kindergarten. It is important that children are socially and emotionally healthy and eager to begin school. Social Readiness is a term that encompasses children's social skill level. If children are not socially or emotionally ready it can lead to a difficult kindergarten transition. Children who are unready for school tend to exhibit short attention spans, inattentiveness, trouble postponing gratification, impulsiveness, low frustration tolerance, poor task orientation, and behavioral rather than verbal expression of aggression,

Here are some questions parents and schools need to consider for social and emotional readiness for early entry:

- Does my child work well individually and within small and large groups?
- Has my child had positive relationships and experiences being in a group away from home and familiar adults?
- Does my child show appropriate social and school behaviors?
- Is my child able to separate from me easily in new situations?
- Does my child follow rules?
- Does my child cooperate and share with other children?
- Does my child interact with other children appropriately?
- Does my child transition from one activity or conversation to another?
- Does my child speak for self?
- Does my child easily answer questions?

If a child is to be successful in Kindergarten, the child should be socially and developmentally mature enough to be in a structured school setting for a demanding school day. The child should be capable of following verbal instructions and functioning independently within a group setting. Many children with extraordinary academic or intellectual ability are not mature enough to handle kindergarten at age four. Children will be evaluated on endurance, independence, social interaction, and overall readiness for a full day school environment setting. Social skills such as sharing, taking turns, compromising, approaching unfamiliar children, and problem solving will facilitate an easy transition and successful year. A child ready for Early Kindergarten Entry should be eager to learn and excited about a new school experience.

Personal Readiness

Personal Readiness is your child's ability to self-help and take care of basic personal needs. Here are some examples of personal skills: self-bathroom skills, dressing, able to use eating utensils, holds and uses pencils and crayons correctly, and speaks for self to express what they need.