

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The first year of primary school for Hart County Schools begins with students who turn 5 years old on or before August 1<sup>st</sup>. However, in accordance with KRS 158.031(6), Hart County Schools have established criteria for **early** entrance to Kindergarten. A student who turns five years old between August 2<sup>nd</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup> may be eligible for early entry, provided that the student meets criteria established by the Board of Education.

Criteria for Early Entrance:

1. Child must be a resident of Hart County, Kentucky; and
2. Child must turn five between August 2<sup>nd</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup> of the admission year; and
3. Child must score at or above the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile on the Total Score, as well as score at or above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile for the Academic/Cognitive area on the Brigance Early Childhood Screens III (Kindergarten) assessment; and
4. Child must score at or above the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile on the Total Score, as well as score at or above the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile for the Concepts area on the DIAL-4 assessment

Hart County Schools' Early Admissions Committee will determine which children may be eligible for early entrance, based on these criteria. Within two weeks of your child's assessment, notification of committee decisions will be provided either in writing or by phone.

If you are interested in your child being considered for early entrance for the 2021-2022 school year, please complete and return the following items by **June 1, 2021** to Donna Turner LeFevre, Preschool Coordinator, Hart County Board of Education, 25 Quality St. Munfordville, KY 42765.

1. Petition for Early Entrance to Kindergarten application
2. Petition for Early Enrollment form
3. Skills checklist for Early Entrance (to be completed by a preschool or daycare provider)
4. Parent Report – Self-Help and Social-Emotional Scales (2 pages)

All 4 of these documents are attached as the last 5 pages of this packet.

Upon receipt of the completed packet, you will be notified of the date for the Brigance Screens III.

**All forms must be completed and submitted/postmarked between January 4 and June 1 for an assessment to be scheduled.**

If you have questions about the process, please contact:

Donna LeFevre, Director of Special Education/Preschool Coordinator, at 270-524-4589

Angela Frank, Supervisor of Instruction, at 270-524-4312

# Early Entrance to Kindergarten Frequently Asked Questions 2021-2022

## ***Why does my child need to meet certain requirements to be considered for early admission?***

KRS 158.030 provides that any child who is five (5) years of age, or who becomes 5 years of age by August 1, may enter a primary school program as defined in KRS 158.031, and may advance through the primary program without regard to age in accordance with KRS 158.031(6).

The Early Admission Policy is an amendment to KRS 158.030 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 August 1.

You are petitioning for early admission and must meet the requirements determined by the Hart County Board of Education.

## ***What are the requirements?***

A child must be a resident of Hart County, KY, and score at or above the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile in the areas of core assessment, self-help, and social-emotional on the Brigance Kindergarten Screens III. If the Brigance threshold is met, the student must then score at or above the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile on the DIAL 4 Screen to qualify for early admission to Kindergarten. In addition, the parents are required to complete and return the Petition for Early Entrance to Kindergarten, Skills Checklist, and Parent Report for early entrance.

## ***What does scoring at or above the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile mean?***

A percentile takes the raw score (number of correct responses) and evaluates it in comparison to the scores of other children who are the same age. When compared to 100 children who were administered the test, a child who scored at or above the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile did better than 85 of them.

## ***Who will administer the Brigance Screens and DIAL 4 Screen assessments?***

The assessments will be administered by the Hart County Schools staff.

## ***What skills are assessed on these assessments and how long does the screening take?***

Children are screened with the Core Assessments. While the student is being screened, parents will complete a survey of the child's self-help and social-emotional skills. Depending on the child's performance, the screening generally takes between 60-90 minutes to complete.

## ***Where will the screening be conducted?***

The screening will be conducted at the Hart County Board of Education Central Office, which is located at 25 Quality St, Munfordville, KY

## ***How will the results be reported to parents?***

Parents will receive a letter or a phone call with the results of the assessment.

## ***Do the test results become part of my child's school record?***

If the student is accepted under the early admission policy, the results will be forwarded to the assigned school.

## ***Can my child be retested or is there an appeal procedure?***

The assessments will only be given one time and there is not an appeal procedure.

***Will bus transportation be provided?***

Your child will be entitled to transportation like all Kindergarten students. Your child will be on the bus with other elementary students.

***What if English is not the primary language for the student?***

A child will be screened in his/her primary language, which is the language that is spoken at home. Interpreters and/or translators may be used to help screen English Language Learners. In some cases, the basic screening may be given in one language and the Self-Help/Social-Emotional Scale provided to a parent/guardian in another language to meet the individual needs of the family.

***What if I change my mind about early entrance to Kindergarten?***

An entry level student in the primary program can be withdrawn from school due to immaturity during the first two months of school by the parent, guardian, or other custodian, in accordance with 704 KAR 5:060. The student would enter in the subsequent school year as a Kindergarten student.

# Early Entrance to Kindergarten Procedures and Guidelines for Petition

## Overview

Per KRS 158.030, to be eligible to enter Kindergarten, children must be five years of age by August 1 (beginning in 2017-18). Senate Bill 24 (SB 24) amends KRS 158.030 by requiring local school boards 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 August 1 (previously on or before October 1).

To be recommended for early entrance to Kindergarten, children will need to demonstrate above average performance and development in academic skills as well as approaches to learning, health and physical well-being, language and communication development, social and emotional development, and cognitive and general knowledge. The standards for early admittance are intended to ensure that students will not be frustrated by their advanced grade placement. There will be no consideration or appeals process for children with birthdates beyond **October 1**.

The process will include multiple measures of the child's readiness for school. These measures will include, but are not limited to the following:

- *DIAL 4*
- BRIGANCE© Kindergarten Screens III
- If applicable, data from prior settings, such as child care, state-funded preschool, Head Start and other Early Childhood programs (i.e. skills checklist for early entrance)
- Parent Report – Self-Help and Social-Emotional Scales (2 pages)

Parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified in writing or by phone as to the decision for an early entrance no later than **July 25**.

## Timeline

**January 4 - June 1** ~ Parent completes and submits Early Entrance to Kindergarten application packet

**April 1 - July 15** ~ Assessments are scheduled and completed; Early Admissions Committee convenes and makes recommendations

**By July 25** ~ Parents are notified of status

## Procedures for Early Entrance

A parent request for early admission can be made by completing an application for early Kindergarten admission. Applications are available from each child's home elementary school or from the Board of Education. Below are the **required parts** to the application process:

- 1) **A completed Petition for Early Entrance to Kindergarten application; and**
- 2) **A completed Petition for Early Enrollment form.**
- 3) **If applicable, a completed checklist completed by a pre-K teacher or childcare provider.**
- 4) **Parent Report – Self Help and Social-Emotional Scales (2 pages)**

**All forms must be completed and submitted/postmarked between January 4 and June 1 for an assessment to be scheduled.** Students with completed early entrance applications will be scheduled for an assessment between April 1 and July 15. The test will take place in designated locations under the supervision of Hart County Schools' staff.

## Evaluation Process

- Individual testing as referenced
- Families are notified of the testing results.

There are two possible outcomes of individual testing:

1. The student **does** demonstrate the required readiness skills and **is eligible** for early entrance into Kindergarten. Families of students found eligible must complete the regular registration process through their home school to enroll the student into a Kindergarten program for the upcoming year, or:
2. The student **does not** demonstrate the required readiness skills and **is not eligible** for early entrance into Kindergarten.

A district team consisting of teacher(s), school psychologist(s), a Gifted Education specialist and an Early Childhood specialist will review all information and make a recommendation to the Supervisor of Instruction for final approval.

## **Kindergarten Early Entrance Expectations**

Kentucky's School Readiness Definition: *Ready to Grow...Ready to Learn...Ready to Succeed*

This means that each child enters school ready to engage in and benefit from early learning experiences that best promote the child's success.

Five developmental areas (approaches to learning, health and physical well-being, language and communication development, social/emotional development, and cognitive/general knowledge), along with a series of readiness indicators, provide an overview of the expectations of primary schools for incoming students. The indicators provide teachers and parents a tool to better inform them on the specific strengths and needs of each individual child.

### **Minimum Early Entrance/School Readiness Indicators**

#### HEALTH AND PHYSICAL WELL-BEING

- Eats a balanced diet
- Gets plenty of rest
- Receives regular medical and dental care
- Has had all necessary immunizations
- Runs, jumps, and climbs, and does other activities that help develop large muscles and provide exercise
- Uses pencils, crayons, scissors, and paints and does other activities that help develop small muscles

#### LANGUAGE, MATH, AND GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

- Uses 5-6 word sentences
- Sings simple songs
- Recognizes and says simple rhymes
- Recites alphabet and can write most letters
- Writes name and is learning to write address
- Knows the difference between print and pictures
- Listens to stories read to him or her
- Asks questions
- Is learning to count, understands one-to-one correspondence, and recognizes numbers
- Identifies and names basic colors and common shapes
- Is beginning to sort and classify objects
- Notices similarities and differences
- Understands simple concepts of time (night/day, today, yesterday, tomorrow)

#### SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Follows simple rules and routines
- Expresses his or her own needs and wants in an appropriate manner
- Accepts direction or limit setting without temper tantrums
- Is curious and motivated to learn
- Explores and tries new things
- Plays/shares with other children
- Is able to be away from parent/family without being upset
- Works well alone
- Attends to tasks/listen for 10-15 minutes in a group setting
- Attends to and completes tasks without constant adult direction or assistance

#### SELF-HELP

- Performs self-care tasks such as using the bathroom, wiping nose, and washing hands independently
- Dresses self, including outdoor clothing
- Takes care of personal items and classroom materials

# Petition for Early Entrance to Kindergarten

## Item 1

Please complete this application and return to school if you feel that your child demonstrates academic achievement, and social, emotional, and physical maturity appropriate for Kindergarten placement; has a birth date that occurs between August 2 and October 1; and should be considered for early placement in Kindergarten

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ M  F  Birthdate \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_  
*Last First MI*

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street City State Zip Code*

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Address \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street City State Zip Code*

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Preschool Experience

List all preschool, Head Start, special education programs, and/or other childcare programs attended. Include the dates of attendance and the approximate number of hours per week attended.

Name of School/Program	Dates of Attendance	# Hours/Week
_____	_____ - _____	_____
_____	_____ - _____	_____

Reason(s) for Request \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Consent to Screen for Early Enrollment

Because my child will turn five (5) years old between August 2 and October 1 of the current school year, I am requesting early entrance to Kindergarten in Hart County Schools, pursuant KRS 158.030.

I give permission for an individual screening of my child to determine if my child meets the District's criteria for early entrance admission.

I understand that the screening will be conducted by qualified District staff through the use of the BRIGANCE ® Kindergarten Screens III and the DIAL 4 (Development Indicators for the Assessment of Learning) to include the basic assessment (motor skills, communication skills, and academic skills), self-help rating scale, and social-emotional rating scale. The assessment tools are selected and administered so as not to be discriminatory on a racial or cultural basis and are administered appropriately for individuals with limited English proficiency. Screenings shall be administered in the child's primary language or other mode of communication.

I have been advised in my primary language or other mode of communication and understand the contexts of this consent.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# **Petition for Early Enrollment Form**

## **Item 2**

### **EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN**

Because my child will turn five (5) years old between August 2 and October 1 of the current school year, I am requesting early admission to Kindergarten in the Hart County Public Schools, pursuant KRS 158.030.

I understand the following:

1. \_\_\_\_My child will be provided the same rigorous kindergarten program and supports as all other students attending kindergarten in the Hart County Schools. This includes curriculum content and instruction, assessment, daily schedule, and behavioral expectations.
2. \_\_\_\_My child's progress and performance will be measured using the Kentucky Core Academic Standards as a guide, with attention to those standards specific to Kindergarten.
3. \_\_\_\_My child will not be promoted and/or retained as a part of his/her public school experience because of chronological age/birthdate.
4. \_\_\_\_I may rescind my request for early entry to Kindergarten and withdraw my child from Kindergarten by providing the school principal with a written request.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Hart County Schools**  
**Skills Checklist for Early Entrance to Kindergarten**  
**Item 3**  
**(To be completed by Preschool or Childcare Provider)**

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Name of Preschool or Childcare Provider \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Provider \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Please answer to the best of your ability. Not all skills are expected to be mastered for early entrance into Kindergarten. This is just a basis for additional information.**

Check	Social Emotional	Check	Language Arts / Reading
	Interacts well with peers		Shows interest in books/stories
	Interacts well with adults		Answers questions about stories
	Participates in group activities		Retells familiar stories
	Keeps hands to self		Dictates sentences to be written
	Respects rules of school		Writes using pictures/symbols/letters
	Shows self-confidence		Identifies same and different
	Takes care of ones on needs		Recognizes own name in print
	Listens attentively (engaged)		Identifies address
	Follows simple directions (1,2,3 steps)		Identifies birthday
	Has good clean up habits		Identifies rhyming words
	Waits for turn		Identifies upper case letters
	Expresses emotion in an acceptable way		Identifies lower case letters
			Can associate a letter with a sound
	<b>Math/Science</b>		
	One to One Correspondence		<b>Motor Skills</b>
	Compares quantiles (more /less)		Prints (trace) first name
	Sorts by attributes (color, shape, size)		Prints (trace) last name
	Identifies basic shapes		Holds Pencil correctly (Right / Left)
	Identifies basic colors		Uses scissors effectively (cuts neatly)
	Recognizes, creates/extends patterns		Buttons, snaps, zips
	Identifies numerals (0-10)		
	Verbally counts to 10 or _____		
	Verbally counts backwards from 10		

Completed by \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_