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Dear Parent/Guardian:

The first year for primary school for Hardin County Schools begins with students who turn 5 years old on or before August 1<sup>st</sup>. In accordance with KRS 158.031(6), HCS has established criteria for early entrance to Kindergarten. Students who turn five years old between August 2<sup>nd</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup> will be eligible to enroll provided that the student meets criteria established by the Board of Education.

**Criteria for Early Entrance**

1. Child must be a resident of Hardin 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. Score at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile on the Brigance Kindergarten Screen assessment
4. Score at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile on the DIAL 4

The Early Admissions Committee will make a decision based on the information collected above for early entrance. This decision will be sent you in writing or by phone within two weeks of your child's assessment.

If you are interested for admission for the 2017-18 school year, please complete and return the following items by **April 1, 2017** to the Office of Early Childhood, Hardin County Board of Education, 65 W.A. Jenkins Rd, Elizabethtown, KY 42701.

1. Petition for Early Enrollment to Kindergarten application
2. Consent to Screen/Evaluate for Early Entrance to Kindergarten
3. Skills Checklist for Early Entrance (to be completed by a preschool or daycare provider)

Upon receipt of the completed packet you will be notified of the date for the Brigance Screen Three.

If you have questions about the process, please contact Carlena Sheeran, Director of Early Childhood, at 270-769-8912.

# Early Entrance to Kindergarten Frequently Asked Questions 2017-18

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

KRS 158.030 provides for any child who is five (5) years of age, or who many become 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 Hardin County Board of Education.

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

A child must be a resident of Hardin County, KY; and score at or above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile in the areas of core assessment, self-help scale and social-emotional scales on the Brigance Screen. If a student meets that threshold, the student must then score at or above the 95<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 admission.

## ***What does scoring at or above the 95<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 95<sup>th</sup> percentile did better than 95 of them.

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

The assessments will be administered by the Hardin 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 complete a survey of self-help and social-emotional skills.

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

The screening will be conducted at the Hardin County Board of Education Central Office, which is located at 65 W.A. Jenkins Rd, Elizabethtown, 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.

***Are there before- and after-school childcare programs?***

There is a program called School Age Child Care that offers after-school care for elementary children until 5:30 pm. You can contact Amy Wood, Coordinator, at 270-769-7926 for more information.

***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 is 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 during the first two months of school due to immaturity by mutual agreement of the parent, guardian or other custodian and the school 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 schools 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 an 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© Early Childhood Screen III
- If applicable, Data from prior settings, such as child care, state-funded preschool, Head Start and other Early Childhood programs (i.e. anecdotal records, including observations regarding following group instructions, his/her attention and focus for extended periods of time, and appropriate interaction with peers and adults)

Parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified in writing 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 Entrance Committee convenes and makes suggestions

**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. There are **three required parts** to the application process:

- 1) A completed application for entrance to Kindergarten;**
- 2) The completed parent profile for early entrance to Kindergarten; and**
- 3) If applicable, a completed checklist completed by a pre-K teacher or child care provider.**

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 Hardin 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 **did not** demonstrate the required readiness skills and **is not eligible** for early entrance into Kindergarten, or:
2. The student **did** 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.

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 Associate Superintendent 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/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
- Can run, jump, climb 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 words sentences
- Sings simple songs
- Recognizes and says simple rhymes
- Can recite alphabet and can write most letters
- Can write name and is learning to write address
- Knows the difference between print and pictures
- Listens to stories read to them
- Asks questions
- Is learning to count, understands one-to-one correspondence, and recognizes numbers
- Can identify and name basic colors and common shapes
- Beginning to sort and classify objects
- Is able to notice similarities and differences
- Understands simple concepts of time (night/day, today, yesterday, tomorrow)
- Social and Emotional Development
- Follows simple rules and routines
- Is able to express 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
- Is able to work well alone
- Has the ability to attend to tasks/listen for 10-15 minutes in a group setting
- Attends to and completes tasks without constant adult direction or assistance
- Self-Help
- Able to perform self-care task such as using the bathroom, wiping nose, and washing hands independently
- Able to dress self, including outdoor clothing
- Takes care of personal items and classroom materials



HARDIN COUNTY SCHOOLS  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77030

# Petition for Early Entrance to Kindergarten

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

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 child care 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 Hardin 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 ® Early Childhood Screen 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 administered appropriately for individuals with limited English proficiency. Screenings shall be administered in the child's native language or other mode of communication.

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

**For District Use Only**

**BRIGANCE® Early Childhood Screen III**

| Area                    | Assessment Items                    | District Criteria | Results by Domain | Meets Criteria | Does Not Meet |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Academic/Cognitive      | 1B/4B/9B/10B                        |                   |                   |                |               |
| Language Development    | 2B/3B/7B/8B/11B                     |                   |                   |                |               |
| Physical Development    | 5B/6B                               |                   |                   |                |               |
|                         | <b>Basic Assessment Total Score</b> |                   |                   |                |               |
| Self-Help Skills        |                                     |                   |                   |                |               |
| Social-Emotional Skills |                                     |                   |                   |                |               |
| Total Score             | *score based on age                 |                   |                   |                |               |

Petition for Early Enrollment:  Recommend  Not Recommend

\_\_\_\_\_  
Screener Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**DIAL 4**

| Area             | District Criteria | Standard Score | Meets Criteria | Does Not Meet |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Motor            | ≥ 33              |                |                |               |
| Concepts         | ≥ 33              |                |                |               |
| Language         | ≥ 32              |                |                |               |
| <b>Total</b>     | <b>≥ 97</b>       |                |                |               |
| Self-Help        | ≥ 42              |                |                |               |
| Social-Emotional | ≥ 52              |                |                |               |
| Behavior         | ≤ 9               |                |                |               |

Petition for Early Enrollment:  Recommend  Not Recommend

\_\_\_\_\_  
Screener Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Petition for Early Enrollment:**  **Recommend**  **Not Recommend**

\_\_\_\_\_  
DPP Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# **Petition for Early Enrollment Form**

## **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 Hardin 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 Hardin 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