



Monroe Local Schools
Pupil Personnel Department
500 Yankee Road Monroe, Ohio 45050 (513) 539-2536
Nancy Stratton, Director

Dear Parent,

Thank you for requesting information regarding early entrance evaluation. The purpose of early entrance testing is to identify children who are exceptionally mature in all areas of development. Your child must be above her/his age group to be considered an appropriate candidate for early entrance into school. A child is recommended for early entrance into school only if the determination is made that, due to her/his advanced maturity level, to not attend school early would be detrimental to her/his development.

The enclosed information should answer most of your questions regarding early entrance evaluation. As you read it, please keep in mind that very few of the children tested are recommended. Research and experience have demonstrated that most children perform better (both academically and socially) when they wait to start school. Those who are recommended are enrolled on a trial basis. If you believe that your child is exceptionally mature and would like to proceed with this evaluation, please complete and return to the school all paperwork on the early entrance checklist, the early entrance registration and the permission for evaluation form. You will then be contacted to schedule the evaluation.

Thank you,

Nancy Stratton

Nancy Stratton, Director of Pupil Personnel

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Early Entrance Procedures & Frequently Asked Questions

Early entrance to kindergarten is addressed in the Operating Standard for Identifying and Serving Gifted Students (Ohio Revised Code 3301-51-15). According to their definition of Gifted, these students “perform or show potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared to others of their age, experience or environment.”

The decision to begin a child’s educational career early should not be taken lightly, as early enrollment will have an effect on the child for many years to come. In middle school, a younger child will be competing with peers who may be more physically developed and s/he may be participating in social activities appropriate for older peers. High school poses new challenges for younger students as their peers may already have their driver’s license and/or have begun dating. College entrance at a younger age is another consideration for students who have begun their academic careers early. Early entrance is equivalent to grade acceleration and for that reason, the procedures for early entrance are rigorous and standardized.

When considering early entrance for a child, Monroe uses the following criteria:

- The child attains a minimum score of 115 or above on an intelligence test administered by a school psychologist from Monroe, AND
- The child performs in an advanced range (95th percentile or higher) on a reading a math achievement test administered by a school psychologist from Monroe, AND
- The child attains an advanced score (60) on the Iowa Acceleration rubric.

Parents interested in early entrance should pick up a packet from the primary office or print the paperwork from the Monroe Local Schools website (<https://monroelocalschools.com/departments/gifted/>). The early entrance paperwork should be filled out and returned to the Monroe Primary building office. For referrals made prior to April 15th, an evaluation will be conducted and a written report completed within 45 days of the referral. Referrals made between April 15th and August 15th will be addressed in a timely manner after August 1st, with a written report issued upon completion of the evaluation. A school team will meet with parents to discuss the results and make a determination on early entrance.

If your child qualifies for early entrance, a Written Acceleration Plan (WAP) will be written and a six-week trial will be implemented. Through those six weeks, your child’s progress will be monitored and if the acceleration is deemed appropriate, the WAP becomes permanent and is noted in the child’s permanent record.

Appeals must be made in writing to the Superintendent within thirty (30) calendar days of the parent receiving the results of the evaluation. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall review the appeal and notify the parent of his/her decision within thirty (30) calendar days of receiving the appeal. The Superintendent or his/her designee will be final.

1. Should I have my child evaluated?

Parents should give this question serious thought and consideration **before** registering their child for evaluation. School entrance is an anxiety-provoking situation for children and should not be taken lightly. Early school experiences shape self-confidence and influence children for the rest of their lives.

Child development at ages four and five is very uneven and is typified by a pattern of imbalanced spurts in skill growth. Thus, a four year old may appear precocious due to a display of excellent vocabulary and language development but may demonstrate social skills typical for the child's age. Furthermore, the youngster may not maintain the language spurt into school as other skills begin to emerge. An additional year of development prior to school enrollment can provide for a **more even** skill profile by school entrance and increased assurance of early school success.

Registration for early entrance should be considered only if the child appears to be one and one-half to two years above his/her chronological age in all of the following areas of development: social-emotional, intellectual, and gross and fine motor coordination. Early entrance should not be reduced to the question, "Can my child succeed in school?" The cost of the potential "success" should be considered. Some educators suggest that young children should be given extra time to develop skills and confidence as foundations for learning rather than be pushed into stressful situations early in the school career. These are serious issues parents must confront in making decisions that will have a significant impact on the lives of their children.

2. Why is there an Early Entrance Program?

The program was established to comply with the Ohio Revised Code (3321.01) which requires evaluation for children who will turn 5 during the school year for which early entrance is sought, and whose parents believe they should be considered for admission into kindergarten. The law defines a range of birth dates wherein children thought to be developing well beyond their age level may be evaluated to determine eligibility for early entrance into school.

3. For whom is this program designed?

The program is designed to identify those children who will turn 5 during the school year for which early entrance is sought, with developmental levels in all areas more than one and one-half to two years above their chronological age. Very few children meet the eligibility standards. In a typical year, five or fewer children out of every one hundred screened are recommended for early entrance. Given this information, parents should be realistic about the potential outcome and conservative in their predictions so as not to create unreasonable expectations in children.

4. How do I prepare my child for the day of evaluation?

Hopefully, you have given serious and realistic consideration to the criteria for acceptance before registering your child. Parental attempts to “coach” the child usually only intensify the pressure and anxiety of the situation. Most of the tasks used in the evaluation are developmental in nature and resemble activities typical of preschool. Do not refer to the session as a test or imply that the child will either pass or fail. You may want to tell your child that he or she will be asked to do some work and other fun things that will show how much they have learned so far. Try to emphasize that they should do their best and enjoy themselves.

5. What are some reasons children do not meet the criteria?

The basic reason is that most children are developing normally or at a rate that is only slightly above average.

6. Why are the standards for acceptance so demanding?

Past experience and research have shown that most children do better when they enter school with their age group. Children who enter early are placed in highly competitive situations with others as much as a year older that have the advantage of additional life experience and development. Only a few advanced children are ready to compete on this level where emotional stress can be intense. Given such risks, high standards are intended to protect children who may appear ready based on advanced skills in one area of development.

7. Suppose I change my mind after my child has been recommended?

YOU, as the child’s parent, make the final decision to enter your child if early entrance has been recommended. You will have been given our professional opinion, but whether or not you actually enroll the child is your decision. As an added precaution, should you choose to enroll your child, the first six weeks of the kindergarten year are considered an extended evaluation period. You or the school may decide to withdraw the child during the six week evaluation period should concerns arise.



Monroe Primary School
225 Macready Avenue Monroe, Ohio 45050
(513) 360-0700, Fax 513-360-0720
Melissa Giffen, Principal

EARLY ENTRANCE CHECKLIST

Student's Name: _____

- I have provided the **Original Birth Certificate or Passport.**
- I have provided a **Parent's Driver's License.**
- I have provided the **Proof of Residency** (one of the following):
 - Copy of most recent Mortgage Statement
 - Copy of Mortgage Deed
 - Settlement Statement or ALTA Settlement Statement
 - Copy of most recent Tax Bill
 - Land Contract or Purchase Contract (if in process of buying or building)
 - Rental/Lease Agreement
 - Landlord Affidavit (if applicable)
- I have provided a **Utility Bill.**
- I have completed and provided the **Early Entrance Registration Form.**
- I have completed and provided the **Early Entrance Permission to Test Form.**



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Melissa Giffen, Principal

EARLY ENTRANCE REGISTRATION

After carefully reading the provided material. I am requesting an evaluation for my child for early entrance into kindergarten. I understand that my child must turn five years of age during the upcoming school year.

Child's Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: MALE FEMALE OTHER

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Work Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Name of Siblings/Ages/Grade Levels (if applicable):

Preschool Attended (if applicable): _____



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PERMISSION TO TEST FOR EARLY ENTRANCE

I grant permission for my child _____, to be assessed by designated Monroe Local Schools personnel using assessment instruments approved by the State of Ohio and included in the district's approved identification plan for early entrance into kindergarten.

Within forty five days of completion of assessment, I will be contacted to attend a meeting of the acceleration team of whether or not my child qualifies, according to the State of Ohio criteria, and/or the district's acceleration process.

- I give permission for assessment(s) to be conducted.

- I do not give permission for assessment(s) to be conducted.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Relationship to Child

Daytime Phone #