



Early Access for Highly Advanced Gifted Children Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is Early Access?

Early access means early entrance to kindergarten or first grade for highly advanced gifted children under age six. Children for early access are exceptionally precocious and ready for school earlier than their same-age peers. Academic achievement, reasoning ability, performance and motivation are keen compared to other gifted children.

“Highly advanced gifted child” means a gifted child whose body of evidence demonstrates a profile of exceptional ability or potential compared to same-age gifted children. To meet the needs of highly advanced development, early access to educational services may be considered as a special provision.

2. My child just missed the cut off enrollment date of October 1st and is ready for kindergarten/1st grade. Is Early Access appropriate for them?

Early Access is for Highly Advanced Gifted Children as defined by the Colorado Department of Education office of Gifted Education. It is not a process for school readiness.

Early access shall not be an acceleration pattern recommended for the majority of age 4 or age 5 gifted children who will benefit from preschool gifted programming that responds to the strength area. The purpose of early access is to identify and serve the few highly advanced gifted children who require comprehensive academic acceleration [12.08(1)(c)].

Many young gifted children are ready for advancement in one or two areas of development. Full grade acceleration at this young age may not be appropriate; however, grade level acceleration may be considered at another point in time. Regular public or private preschools or home schooling meet the needs of the majority of gifted 4 and 5 year olds.

3. Do I have to live in the Douglas County School District in order to apply for Early Access?

Yes. You must be a resident of Douglas County and submit proof of residency as part of the Early Access Application portfolio. If you live in a different district, please contact them about their Early Access Process. If it is determined by your current district through their CDE approved process that your child is appropriate for Early Access, please contact the DCSD Gifted Education Team for information on how to submit the appropriate documentation and apply through our Open Enrollment process.



Early Access for Highly Advanced Gifted Children Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

4. When do I need to have all portions of my application submitted?

April 1, 2021 is a FIRM deadline. This date is set by the CDE. DCSD does not accept any applications after this date.

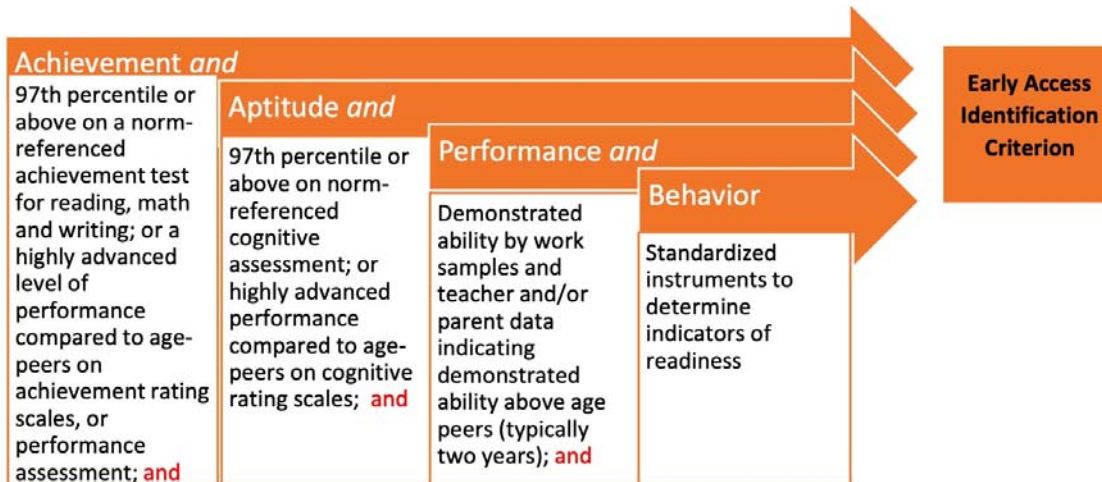
5. What types of artifacts should I submit?

Please reference the Application Process for Early Access for Highly Advanced Gifted Children document that explains what you can send in. Begin collecting copies work samples at home in writing and math (scan/take a picture and include in the attachment via email).

Collect and submit artifacts (scan/take a picture and include in the attachment via email) indicating Social emotional and behavioral readiness for Kindergarten or First Grade.

6. What criteria is used to determine if my child qualifies for Early Access?

Per state statute, the following pathway meets criteria for early access identification.





Early Access for Highly Advanced Gifted Children Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

All criteria must be considered in making the determination. Test scores alone do not meet the standards of a determination. A student may score at the 97th percentile or above on aptitude and achievement tests but not have data that supports school readiness. Every child with a score above the 97th percentile may not benefit from early access to kindergarten or first grade. Early access decisions will be a consensus process. If the team cannot reach consensus, the building principal or the gifted education director/coordinator shall make the final decision in accordance with the AU's early access program plan. The decision as to whether a student qualifies for early access is at the sole discretion of the AU (Colorado Department of Education, 2016).

[CDE Early Access for Highly Advanced Gifted Children under the age of 6](#)

7. What if we change our minds after the process has started or after our child has been granted Early Access?

You may stop the process at anytime. You may also decline placement at any time. Please connect with a member of our team if you wish to do so.

8. How can my child study for the tests you will give?

Your child does not need to study or prepare for any of the assessments administered in the Early Access Process. It is important to make sure that they get a good night's rest the night before and eat a healthy breakfast.

9. What if I cannot afford the testing/application fee?

DCSD makes every effort to provide equitable access for testing in this process. If you need financial assistance, please email us at gifted.education@dcsdk12.org

10. My child's primary language is not English. Do I need to do anything different?

If you indicate a language of influence other than English in the child's home on the initial *EA Student/School Information, Consent to Test Form*, a member from our team will contact you for more information. If you did not indicate this on the initial form, please email us at gifted.education@dcsdk12.org to discuss next steps.