



Teach  Learn  Lead

Early Admission to Kindergarten

In July 1997, the North Carolina General Assembly passed a law regarding early admission to kindergarten. To determine eligibility, the principal shall convene a committee of educational professionals who will assist in the decision making process for each individual child.

The requisite criteria are:

- Aptitude: 98% on a standardized individual test of intelligence administered by a licensed psychologist after April 16th.

AND

- Achievement: 98% on a standardized individual test of achievement in reading and / or math administered by a licensed psychologist after April 16th.

Other criteria to be considered include:

- Performance: Student work samples that show outstanding ability in any of the following areas; art, math, writing, dramatic play, creative productions, science, reading, social interactions, etc. A maximum of six items is recommended. The quality of the samples will be given greater consideration than the quantity.
- Observable Student Behavior: The principal and / or designee will interview the student to determine the child's level of readiness for early entrance to school. The principal will conduct an interview with the parents/guardians to discuss the child's advanced development and interests.
- Motivation/Student Interest: Two letters of recommendation with specific documentation of physical and social maturity from child care workers, pediatricians, or others outside of the home with direct knowledge of the child is required.

If, after careful consideration, you decide that your child may be one of the few who would benefit from early entrance to kindergarten, then you will need to start compiling the required documentation. The legislation states that it is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to present information, (including the arranging and paying for any required testing), to the principal of the school to support that the child has extraordinary academic ability and is appropriately mature to justify early admission.

All required testing must be administered by a licensed psychologist after April 16th in the year that the student is seeking early admission. Catawba County Schools requires that the most current versions of both the aptitude and achievement tests be administered for early admission to kindergarten consideration. The principal at each school will make the final decision about admission after reviewing all of the documentation presented to the school.

Note: Although superior aptitude is a strong indicator of extraordinary academic ability, every child with a score at the 98th percentile in intelligence/achievement may not need early admission to kindergarten. Some children could have a negative experience if the demands of a structured school day are imposed too early.

For further information contact Gina Humphries or Jo-Nell Isenhour at 828.464.8333

Gifted Programming and Services

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