

Early Childhood Student Assignment Office
4309 Bishop Lane
Louisville, KY 40218
(502) 485-7677 Extension 2621



Dear Parent/Guardian:

The first year for primary school for Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) begins with students who turn age five on or before August 1st. In accordance with KRS 158.031(6), JCPS has established criteria for early entrance to kindergarten, for students who have mastered early childhood benchmarks before age five. Students who turn five years old between August 2nd and October 31st 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 Jefferson County, Kentucky; and
2. Child must turn five between August 2nd and October 31st of the admission year; and
3. Child must meet the qualifications on the BRIGANCE Screening in the three assessment areas: core assessments, self-help, and social-emotional scales.

If you are interested in early entrance to kindergarten for the 2020-21 school year, please complete the online application at <https://goo.gl/forms/fyaYEnMUnGkpWQIK2> by **March 7, 2020**.

Petition for Early Entrance to Kindergarten

- Complete the online application and consent to an individual screening for your child as a part of the petition for early entrance to kindergarten.
- Once you have completed the online application, you will be notified about the time of the Brigance Screening one week prior to the selected date.
- If a completed packet is received prior to or during the initial elementary application period, the Office of Student Assignment will submit an elementary magnet and/or cluster application for the student. The application will be withdrawn if the student does not meet the criteria for early entrance to kindergarten.
- If a completed packet is received after the close of the initial elementary application period, the Office of Student Assignment will complete the elementary application after it is established that the student meets the admission criteria.

This decision regarding your petition for early entrance to kindergarten will be sent to you in writing within two weeks of your child's assessment. If you have questions about the process, please contact Marcia Lawler in the Early Childhood Student Assignment office at 485-7677 extension 2621.

Sincerely,

Marcia Lawler
Coordinator of Early Entry to Kindergarten



Early Entrance to Kindergarten Frequently Asked Questions

Why does my child need to meet certain requirements to be considered for early entrance to kindergarten?

KRS 158.030 provides for any child who is five (5) years of age, or who may become five (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 entrance to kindergarten and must meet the requirements determined by the Jefferson County Board of Education.

What are the requirements?

A child must be a resident of Jefferson County, Kentucky and turn 5 between August 2, 2020 and October 31, 2020; and meet the qualifications in the areas of core assessments, self-help and social-emotional scale on the Brigance screening. In addition, the parents are required to complete the online petition for early entrance to kindergarten and a self-help and social developmental history form on the day of the screening. Only after a student meets the requirements for early entrance into kindergarten will an elementary application be submitted to student assignment.

Who will administer the assessments?

The Brigance screening will be administered by a JCPS teacher.

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

Children are screened with the Brigance Core Assessments. While the student is being screened, parents complete a kindergarten application and a survey of self-help and social-emotional skills. On average, the assessment appointment takes 20 minutes.

Where will the screening be conducted?

For students who are currently not in the JCPS early childhood program, the Brigance screening will be conducted at George Unseld Early Childhood at 5216 Ilex Avenue. You will meet the designated staff person in the lobby of the building. If the student is in a JCPS Early Childhood program, they will be assessed by a JCPS teacher at their enrolled location.



How will the results be reported to parents?

Parents will receive a letter with the results of the assessment two weeks after the assessment date.

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

If the student is accepted under the early entrance petition process, the results will be forwarded to the assigned school.

Where are test results stored?

The test materials will be stored in the Early Childhood Student Assignment office.

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.

Is my child guaranteed a particular school?

The district policy allows for qualifying students to submit an application; however, students are not guaranteed an assignment at a particular school or program. Applications for students who meet the requirements for early entrance to kindergarten will be considered like all other kindergarten applications. Students may apply for one of the district's magnet schools or programs or for a school in the cluster.

- If a completed packet is received prior to or during the initial elementary application period, the Office of Student Assignment will submit an elementary magnet and/or cluster application for the student. The application will be withdrawn if the student does not meet the criteria for early entrance to kindergarten.
- If a completed packet is received after the close of the initial elementary application period, the Office of Student Assignment will complete the elementary application after it is established that the student meets the early entrance to kindergarten criteria.

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?

JCPS partners with the YMCA to provide before- and after-school childcare programs (CEP). Many elementary schools have CEP programs on-site or a bus is provided between the assigned school and a CEP site. Contact Melissa Barman at 485-3834 or the YMCA at 637-1575 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 parent/guardian would receive a prorated refund of any tuition paid. The student would enter in the subsequent school year as a kindergarten student.

Early Entrance to Kindergarten Things to Consider



The following page is intended to help parents determine the appropriateness of having their child evaluated for early entrance to kindergarten.

SHOULD I HAVE MY CHILD EVALUATED?

Parents are advised to give this question serious thought before registering their child for an early entrance evaluation. School entrance can be an anxiety provoking situation that should not be taken lightly. Each school experience shapes self-confidence and influences children for the rest of their lives.

Child development at ages four and five is often not even. Thus, a four-year old may appear advanced because of a large vocabulary and language development while social skills may be typical of the child's age. At times an extra year of preschool development may be providing a more even skills profile and assurance of school success.

But, for very few children, early entrance to kindergarten will be exactly what the child needs. In these cases, registration should be considered only if the child appears to be working at or above the 50th percentile in each of the following areas: intellectual and social-emotional development, and self-help skills.

What's Next?

If after careful consideration, you decide that your child may be one of the very few who will benefit from early entrance to kindergarten, you will complete the online petition and a screening will be scheduled.

Jefferson County Public Schools

School Readiness and Your Child

These are some of the skills that are helpful for children to know before entering kindergarten.

Jefferson County Public Schools recognizes that children develop and learn things at different rates and times. These are recommended skills. Please remember that the only prerequisite for entering kindergarten is that a child is 5 years old on or before August 1.



Access additional resources for kindergarten readiness at <http://ready4k.jefferson.kyschools.us>.



Early Entrance to Kindergarten Petition Process

Student Assignment Handbook outlines the procedure for early entrance. Petitions for early entrance are accepted through March 7th for students who will turn 5 years old between August 2 and October 31 of the application year.

- Parents will complete the online petition for early entrance at:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfCrtWfisZEGPSDwH0F96rci0Shi7dPClkgxBV9jBvAG2XH5Q/closedform>
- Student Assignment maintains a database of all online submissions
- Parents will be given a screening date in the online application
- If the student is currently in a JCPS Early Childhood Program they will be assessed by JCPS Early Childhood staff
- Early Childhood Student Assignment will notify parents the assigned time of the screening one week prior to the date.

- Student Assignment reviews petition application.
- Early Childhood Student Assignment determines dates for Brigance screenings
- Recommended screenings occur in December, February, and in March. Schedule will be adjusted if volume is high.

- For screenings of students that are not currently in a JCPS Early Childhood Program, the Brigance Screening is completed by a JCPS teacher.
- Teacher scores Brigance
- Teacher provides post-screening letter to parent stating that they will be notified of the results in two weeks.

Scores qualify in all 3 areas of Core Assessments Screens

NO

YES

Student Assignment mails "Non-Qualifying" letter

EC Student Assignment mails "Qualifying" letter
Student Assignment staff will submit the elementary application on behalf of the parent of the students who met early entrance requirements. The parent will provide the information needed to complete the application.*

**If completed application is received during or after the elementary application period, the Student Assignment Office completes the kindergarten application for the student who qualified for early entrance. If the student does not meet criteria, the application will be withdrawn.*