

Early Entrance to Kindergarten



Sheffield-Sheffield Lake City Schools

**Board of Education
1824 Harris Road
Sheffield, OH 44054
440-949-4210**

What is Sheffield-Sheffield Lake City Schools' Early Entrance to Kindergarten policy?

According to Sheffield's early entrance policy, a child must turn five (5) before August 1 to be eligible for kindergarten. However, according to Section 3324.10 of HB 79:

- Children who will be age five (5) between August 1 and January 1 may be evaluated for possible early entrance upon request of the child's parent/guardian. The referral form (attached) may be completed by the parent/guardian and submitted to the Board of Education (Attn: School Psychologist).
- Children who will not be age five (5) by January 1 may also be evaluated if referred by an educator within the district, a preschool educator who knows the child, or a pediatrician or psychologist who knows the child. The referral form (attached) must be completed by an individual mentioned above and submitted to the Board of Education (Attn: School Psychologist).
- Children who will not yet be the proper age by January 1 may also be evaluated at the discretion of the principal of the school to which the child may be admitted. The referral form (attached) may be completed by the parent/guardian and submitted to the Board of Education (Attn: School Psychologist).

Is early entrance to kindergarten the best choice for your child?

Early entrance is to be viewed as a way to meet a child's needs. The developmental readiness of a child is important in determining the appropriateness of early entrance. Even if a child exhibits strong ability, he/she may not be a good candidate for early entrance. It is important to consider the child's social maturity, personal development, and motor development, as well.

Early entrance is designed for the exceptional child who is both academically ready as well as developmentally mature when compared to others of his/her chronological age. Some considerations in determining the appropriateness of early entrance:

- Is my child capable of working in a classroom setting with children who are one year older?
- Will my child be frustrated by this placement?
- What are the possible long-term impacts for my child as he/she progresses through elementary, middle, and high school?
- Early entrance is not designed as a replacement for child care. Is this a need or a want?
- Do I understand the expectations for students in kindergarten?

There is a difference between ability and achievement. Some children may appear exceptional simply because of their access to opportunities such as preschool programs, parents working with them on skills, or access to learning materials. Early entrance is designed for the child who not only has the ability but easily achieves when presented with new material.

If a child is determined to be a good candidate for early entrance to kindergarten, it is important that all stakeholders are supportive of the decision.

What is expected of students in kindergarten?

Kindergarten has changed considerably over the past several years. Today's kindergarten students are engaged in a rigorous instructional program. Please review the Early Learning and Development Standards on the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) website. To access this document, go to www.ode.state.oh.us and search "early learning and development standards". You can also review other valuable information related to early entrance and kindergarten. On the ODE's website, search "the young gifted child" and "kindergarten readiness checklist".

How will my child be evaluated for early entrance to kindergarten?

If you believe your child may be a good candidate for early entrance, please complete the attached referral form and submit to the Board of Education (Attn: School Psychologist) at 1824 Harris Road, Sheffield, OH 44054 or call 440-949-4210 to request a referral form.

Once the referral has been received, the school psychologist will contact you to coordinate the evaluation process.

Instruments used in the evaluation process will include the Iowa Acceleration Scale (IAS) 3rd Edition. Other assessments may also be used during the evaluation process.

Once the evaluation is completed, you will be notified by phone and a committee may convene to discuss the results. This committee may include the following:

1. The principal
2. A kindergarten teacher
3. The parent/guardian
4. The director of special education
5. The school psychologist

You will be notified in writing of the outcome of the evaluation process within 45 days of the submission of the referral. You may appeal the committee decision in writing to the Superintendent within 30 days of being notified of the committee's decision.

Students are expected to be developmentally "on track" with the typical kindergarten student. Should a student meet the criteria for cognitive ability but fail to meet developmental readiness items, the team will discuss and reach a consensus as to the best placement for the child.

Sheffield-Sheffield Lake City Schools Early Entrance to Kindergarten Referral Form

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Parent/Guardians: _____

Phone(s): _____

Educational History

Preschool/Day Care Facility: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Months of Attendance: _____ Teacher: _____

Preschool/Day Care Facility: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Months of Attendance: _____ Teacher: _____

*Please include copies of your child's progress reports

Background Information

Do you know of or suspect any problems with _____ vision or _____ hearing?

Does your child take any medication? _____

Does your child have any health problems? _____

Are there any specific home factors that may affect your child's performance in school? _____

Has your child previously been administered any academic/cognitive assessment? __ Yes __ No

If yes, administered by: _____ on (date): _____

*Please attach copies of results

Please respond to the following questions:

1. What were some early childhood indicators that demonstrated your child was advanced for his/her age?

2. What characteristics have you recently observed that lead you to believe your child is ready for kindergarten?

3. How does your child approach a challenging task? Include an example.

4. How does your child relate to his/her age peers?

5. Describe your child's preferred playmates.

6. How does your child interact with adults (e.g., community members, strangers, neighbors)?

7. How does your child choose to spend his/her free time?

8. Does your child participate in any activities (e.g., dance, art, sports, music lessons, etc.)?

9. How does your child handle frustration?

10. Please provide any other information that you think is important for us to know about your child.

Consent for Early Entrance Evaluation

1. I give permission for Sheffield-Sheffield Lake City Schools to request information about my child from his/her preschool or daycare facility.
2. I give permission for Sheffield-Sheffield Lake City Schools to complete assessments by designated school personnel and understand that the results may be shared with teachers, principals, and other appropriate school personnel.
3. I understand that the information collected from these assessments and observations will become part of the application for early entrance to kindergarten for my child. I further understand that my granting of consent is voluntary and I may revoke consent at any time.

Child's Name Date of Birth

Parent Name(s)

Parent Signature(s) Date

RETURN COMPLETED REFERRAL/CONSENT TO:

Board of Education
Attn: School Psychologist
1824 Harris Road
Sheffield, OH 44054
Phone: 440-949-4210
Fax: 440-949-4204