

Cheatham County School District

Early Childhood Access to Kindergarten

Early access is considered a grade acceleration and is only to be considered for those children that are exceptional in academics, self-help, and social/emotional abilities.

Age Requirement: “A student shall be age 5 by September 30th for kindergarten.”

Criteria

The Cheatham County School District Early Access process only serves families within the Cheatham County School District boundaries. Families residing outside of Cheatham County School District boundaries should contact the district in which they are located.

Cheatham County School District will provide Brigance testing free of charge. Approved standardized testing (private or public) provided by the parent may also be considered.

In order for a child to be admitted under early access, all three (3) of the following criteria must be met:

1. A score of 92 or greater on the Brigance Assessment
2. A score of 17 on the Self-Help portion of the Brigance Assessment
3. A score of 16 on the Social/Emotional portion of the Brigance Assessment

Process

All children must go through an application process in order to be identified as highly advanced and accepted for Early Access.

- Parent/guardian submits a formal request for early access by the *last date of Kindergarten Registration* to the principal of zoned school that includes:
 - Application Form, Available at each elementary school
 - Recommendation letter from preschool teacher or physician
 - Any supporting anecdotal information and/or work samples demonstrating student’s advanced abilities
 - Any available test data of cognitive abilities and/or achievement
- The principal will forward the application to Mike Parsley, Special Education Director
 - Mike Parsley and district Assessment Specialist will review the applications and move forward with students who have met the qualifying criteria
 - Arrangements will be made to test the student using the Brigance Assessment
 - A determination letter will be sent to the parent/guardian including Brigance Score Data Sheet, and Early Access determination

Determination

- Determination will be made within 60 calendar days of receiving referral portfolios

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Appeal Process

If a student does not meet the criterion for Early Access, the parent/guardian may appeal the decision in writing to the Director of Schools within 10 days of receiving the letter of recommendation. The letter of appeal must request a district level meeting to seek a resolution. At the meeting the parent may present data showing the skills necessary for early kindergarten entry. Following the meeting, the Director of Schools or designee will consult with the determination team. The decision will be mailed to the parent/guardian within 5 school days of the meeting.

***Approved Standardized Tests provided by parents that will be considered for Early Access:** Wechsler Intelligence Test (WIPPSI), Differential Abilities Scale (DAS), Ravens Matrices, Test of Early Mathematics Ability (TEMA), Test of Early Reading Ability (TERA), Test of Early Written Language (TEWL3), WISC, NNAT, COGAT, KBIT2, Gifted Evaluation Scales (GES), Scales for Identifying Gifted Students (SIGS), Kingore Observation Inventory (KOI), Preschool Behavior Scales (PKBS), Iowa Acceleration Scale (IAS).