

Acceleration Program Information Early Entrance to Kindergarten

Urbana School District #116



Acceleration Definitions

Definitions

Accelerated placement is the placement of a student in an educational setting with curriculum that is usually reserved for students who are older or in higher grades than the student.

Accelerated placement includes, but may not be limited to: early entrance to kindergarten or first grade, accelerating a student in a single subject, and grade acceleration.



Acceleration Definitions

Early entrance to kindergarten is the admission to kindergarten of a student who: (a) will not be five years of age on or before September 1 of that school term; or (b) is admitted prior to the dates established in the School Code based upon an assessment of his or her readiness to attend school.



Acceleration Process

- Step 1. Referral
- Step 2. Screening
- Step 3. Evaluation
- Step 4. Planning



Kindergarten Readiness

Signs

- Writes name independently
- Knows at least half of their letters and sounds
- Displays early reading behaviors
 - Recognizes that words have meaning (1:1)
 - Rhyming and recognizing patterns
- Orally counts to at least 30 and counts objects to 15
- Identifies and writes numbers to 15



Kindergarten Readiness

Signs

- Child is ready for a full day of school
- Child is independent in basic life skills
- Child plays well/shares with other children
- Adequate attention span and stamina to complete academic tasks independently



Referral Process

- Obtain a Request for Acceleration Evaluation form from Urbana Early Childhood School office.
- Complete the form and return it to the Urbana Early Childhood School office **prior to the date on the website.**
 - Referrals received after the date will not result in accelerated placement beginning the first day of school in August.



Screening Process

For students in which a language other than English is spoken in the home, an English language proficiency assessment will be completed prior to evaluation in order to determine the appropriate language of assessment.



Screening Process

- Once a referral has been made, someone will be in contact with you regarding screening dates.



Screening Process

- After your child's screening, a staff member will discuss the results with you and determine whether a full evaluation for acceleration is warranted.
 - Screening results range from 0.0-3.0. Your child must score an overall 2.5 on the screening to be considered for further testing.



Acceleration Evaluation

- If your child qualifies for a full evaluation for acceleration, multiple standardized assessment tools will be used to determine eligibility for early entrance to kindergarten.
- Areas of assessment
 - Child Development
 - Social-Emotional Functioning
 - Academic Achievement
 - Cognitive Ability



Acceleration Planning

- Once eligibility for acceleration has been determined, the team develops a plan to transition the student into the accelerated placement.
- Families should consider the pros and cons of an accelerated placement.
- Within the first 30 days of accelerated placement, the family may choose to withdraw from the accelerated placement. After 30 days, the placement will become permanent.



Acceleration Planning

Factors to consider:

- Spots at Urbana Early Childhood will not be guaranteed during the 30 day transition period.
- School and classroom placement will be determined based on address and school/classroom capacity.



Acceleration Planning

What if I want my child in a Dual-Language program?

- Applications for Dual-Language consideration are likely due before this evaluation process will be completed. You may submit an application for Dual-Language. However, your child must qualify for entrance to kindergarten prior to enrollment in a Dual-Language program.
- Contact Guadalupe Ricconi gricconi@usd116.org with questions related to Dual-Language.



Appeal Process

If you disagree with the decision not to evaluate your child or the eligibility decision, you may appeal the decision. Submit your appeal in writing (email or letter) to the Superintendent within 30 days of the decisions. You will receive a final decision within 30 days of receiving the appeal.



Closing

Acceleration Referral forms are available at <https://usd116.org/acceleration/>.

Questions?

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