

EARLY ACCESS PROCESS



FOSTERING ACADEMIC SUCCESS THROUGH THE ACCELERATION OF YOUNG GIFTED CHILDREN

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OUR PURPOSE



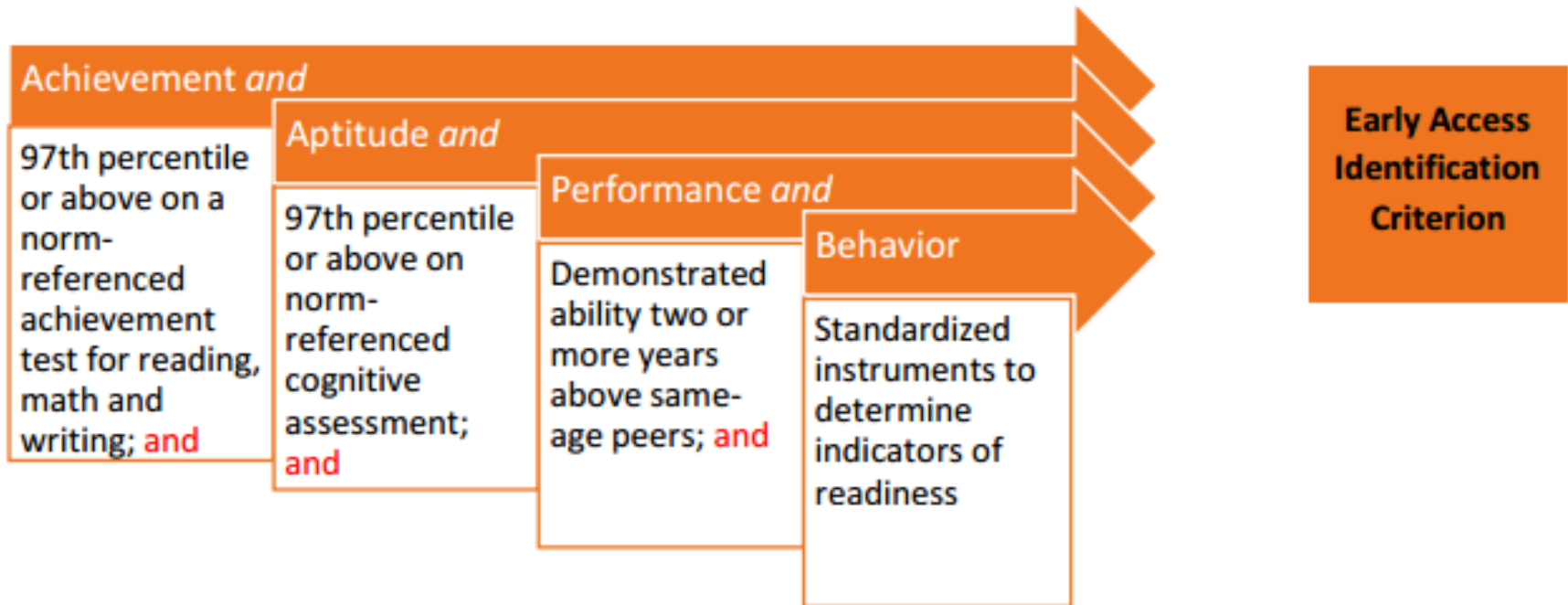
WHAT IS EARLY ACCESS?

Early Access is an optional educational program to include "highly gifted" underage learners in educational programs for kindergarten and first grade who are:

- ✘ Academically ready
- ✘ Emotionally ready
- ✘ Behaviorally ready

CDE GUIDELINES FOR EARLY ACCESS

The following pathway meets criteria for early access identification.



WHAT ARE THE STATE CRITERIA?

A child admitted under the Colorado Early Access provision must demonstrate high:

- + **Aptitude** at or above the 97th percentile
- + **Achievement** at or above the 97th percentile
- + **Performance** at or above the 97th percentile
- + Readiness for advanced placement
- + Observable advanced social behavior
- + Motivation to learn
- + **Support** from parents

LEGAL DOCUMENTS

- ✘ Colorado Department of Education-Fast Facts
- ✘ Jeffco Board Policy

Exceptional Student Services
Office of Gifted Education
www.cde.state.co.us/gt

COLORADO
Department of Education
FACT SHEET

Guidelines for Enrolling or Counting Early Access Students

Student Types

In addition to the documentation necessary for ensuring that students meet the enrollment, attendance, and scheduling criteria needed for funding, additional documentation may be required, depending on the classification of a student or program in which the student is participating. Following are provisions for the "Advanced Highly Gifted Students", a type of student enrollment category that requires additional documentation. Please note that the audit documentation listed for all "Student Types" is in addition to all other required documentation (e.g., enrollment dates, 11-day count window attendance, student schedules).

Advanced Highly Gifted Students

Pursuant to CSL 22-20-204(2) administrative units may permit early access to kindergarten to a highly gifted advanced four year old and early access to first grade to a highly gifted advanced five year old.

- The administrative unit at the school district, board of cooperative services or the state Charter School Institute must file a written early access addendum to the ALP's Comprehensive Program Plan.
- The initial AU addendum must be filed for approval with the Gifted Education Unit at the Department of Education by January 1 prior to the fiscal year of implementation. (For example: Eligible addendums for fiscal year 2016-2017 must be submitted by January 2016).
 - The early access addendum template and checklist are located on CDE's Web page: <http://cde.state.co.us/gt/resources.htm>
- The early access student for grades K and 1st must have an ALP on file by September 30 of each year to be verified and counted in the October enrollment.
- For a four year old to be counted as a kindergartener or a five year old to be counted as a first grader the ALP must show the notation "grade acceleration" on the first or cover page of the ALP. This notation must be visible for both the kindergarten and grade one school years, as applicable to the early access student.
 - The student must reach the age of four by October 1 for kindergarten.
 - The student must reach the age of five by October 1 for grade one.

Notes:

- The early access provisions benefit only a few highly advanced gifted children. The legislation is not for the majority of age 4 or age 5 gifted students who are served in preschool and kindergarten programs. Gifted education directors and coordinators determine with their superintendent if early access will be permitted in the administrative unit and an early access addendum filed with CDE.
- The AU's gifted education director has current information about the local advanced learning plan system of support. Examples of ALP's are located on CDE's Web page: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/gt/resources.htm>. Administrative Units typically maintain ALP's on Web-based or an internal electronic system which must record the student's date of entry, the ALP start date and a label of "grade acceleration" on the ALP for grades K and 1st.

November 2016

BoardDocs Policy: Early Access for Highly Gifted Students

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District Regulations/Exhibits – Jefferson County School District R-1

Book: District Regulations/Exhibits – Jefferson County School District R-1
Section: I: Instruction
Title: Early Access for Highly Gifted Students
Number: IHBB-R
Status: Active
Legal:
Adopted: 04/13/2009
Last Revised: 04/13/2009
Last Reviewed: 04/13/2009

Policy Detail

Interest/Inquiry

If a parent/guardian determines that his/her preschool or kindergarten child may be highly gifted and would like to inquire about early access/entrance to kindergarten or first grade, the parent/guardian may contact a Jeffco preschool, elementary school, district Early Childhood Education office or district Gifted and Talented office. Upon request, an informational brochure will be made available.

Inquiries/requests will be processed by Jeffco Public Schools' Child Find department using the Intake Form. The Child Find department will mail a Developmental History form to the parent/guardian and forward the Intake Form to the director of Gifted and Talented or designee.

OUR PROCESS



EARLY ACCESS PACKET / PORTFOLIO

- ✘ Complete *Developmental History*
 - + Complete Permission for *Classroom Observation*
 - + A letter from the parent(s) of the child requesting Early Access
 - + Complete online the *Parent Information Form*
 - + Complete online the *School Information Form* (GT office will send the Gifted Rating Scale to be completed by an education profession indicated on this form)
 - + 4-6 carefully selected items in a Portfolio format as outlined in the *Kingore Portfolio Assessment Guidelines* document.
 - ✘ Please fill out an *artifact (1/3 sheet) description* form for each selected item.
 - + Complete online *My Child's Strengths*
 - ✘ *English* | *Spanish*

A thumbnail image of a form titled "DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY". The form has a header with the text "PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY YOUR INFORMATION" and "DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY". Below the header, there are several sections with horizontal lines for text entry, including fields for "Child's Name", "Date of Birth", "Parent's Name", and "Address". The form is enclosed in a blue border.

The Early Access Packet /Portfolio is due on March 24, 2017 to The Director of Gifted and Talented at the Jefferson County Education Center in order to be scheduled for cognitive testing. No exceptions.

TIMELINE

04/1

- Application Closes

03/24

- Portfolios Due

Week of
04/3

- Cognitive Testing (DAS or WPPSI)

Week of
04/10

- Achievement Testing (TEMA & TERA)

Week of
04/17

- Preschool observations by GT and ECE Departments

04/25

- Committee review meeting to review portfolios & decide placement

Week of
04/28

- Letters to Early Access parents with placement decisions & results from assessments

Week of
05/8

- School visits for families

Week of
05/15

- Early Access Placement meetings with principal, teacher, parents and GT department

COGNITIVE ASSESSMENT

- ✘ Wechsler Preschool & Primary Scales of Intelligence -WPPSI
- ✘ Differentiated Abilities Scales-DAS

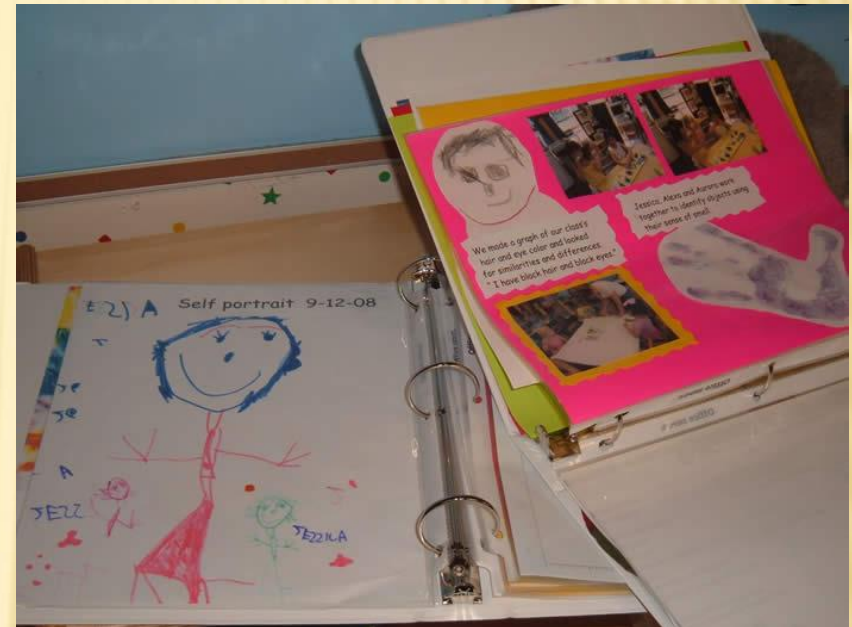
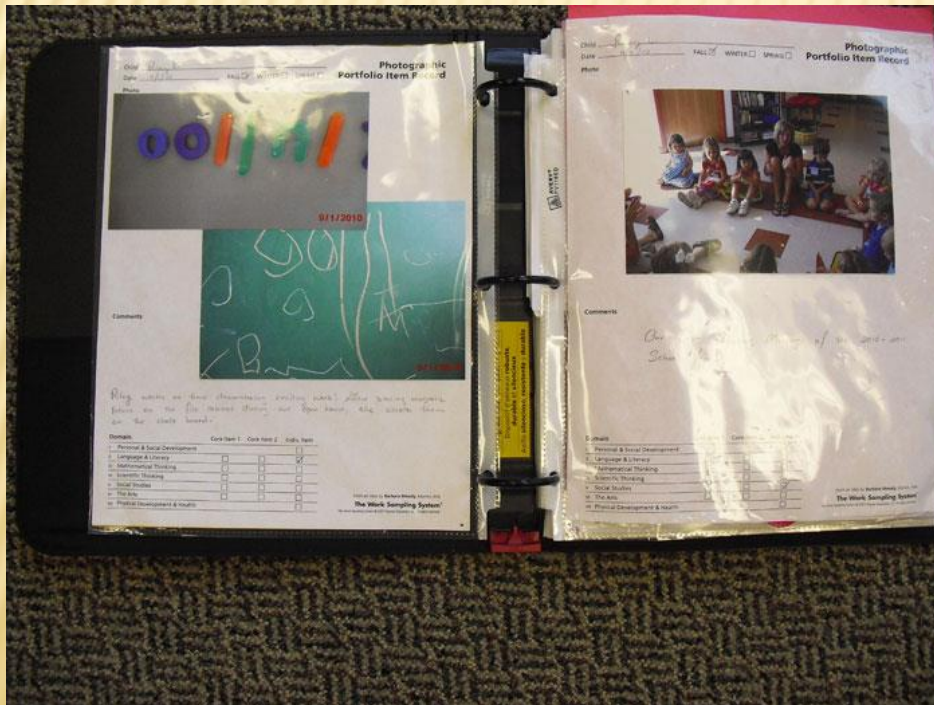


ACHIEVEMENT

- ✘ Test of Early Mathematical Abilities -TEMA
- ✘ Test of Early Reading Abilities- TERA
- ✘ Kauffman Assessment Battery for Children - KABC



REVIEW PORTFOLIO/OBSERVATIONS



CONDUCTING OBSERVATIONS



Early Access
Common Protocol for Observations

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____
Observer's Name: _____
Date of Observation: _____ Observation Location: _____

Please keep the following five points in mind as you observe the child, noting any pertinent information. Remember, this is merely a tool to gather information that will help the child transition into the early access classroom.

1. Interactions with peers:
2. Interactions with adults:
3. Transitions between activities:
4. Focus / attention span:
5. Sensory issues / evidence of overexcitabilities:

SELECTION COMMITTEE



PATHWAYS



ACCOUNTABILITY



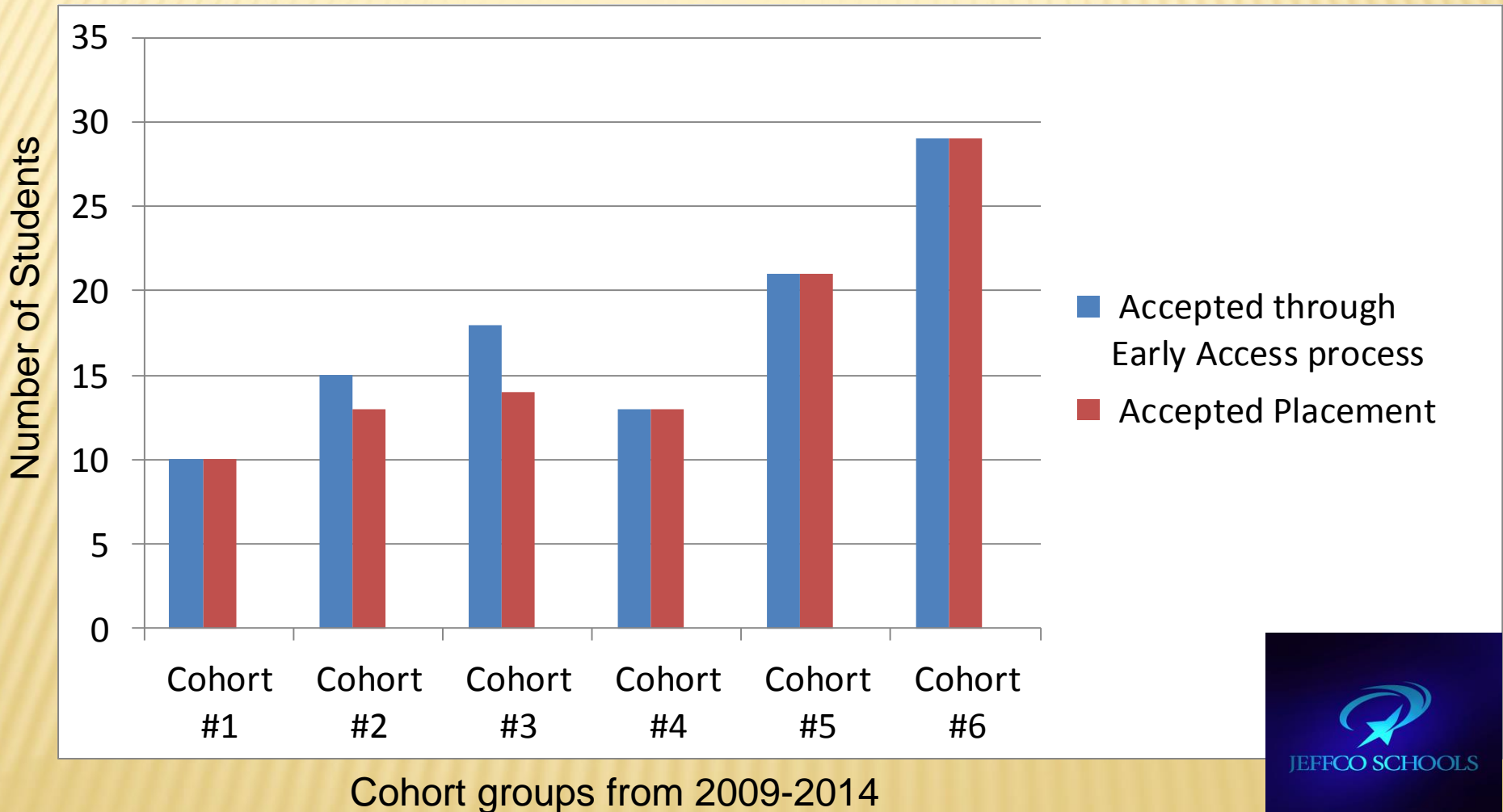
COLORADO
Department of Education

- ✘ CDE C-GER review
- ✘ October Count
- ✘ Early Access Addendum

The student must reach the age of four by October 1 for kindergarten.

The student must reach the age of five by October 1 for grade one.

EARLY ACCESS ACCEPTANCE & PLACEMENT FOR 2009-2014



THE STATS

	Cohort #1	Cohort #2	Cohort #3	Cohort #4	Cohort #5	Cohort #6	Cohort #7	Cohort #8
# applied	25	35	51	62	68	72	80	85
# accepted	10	15	18	13	23	29	22	8
# Kinder	7	8	11	9	15	25	13	5
# First	3	5	3	4	6	4	9	3

SUPPORT STRUCTURES



EARLY ACCESS WEBSITES

Early Access



To meet the needs of highly advanced children who have not yet entered kindergarten or first grade, Jeffco Public Schools may grant early entrance to school.

This process is not for typical children who miss the October 1 Kindergarten entrance date. [Jeffco Board of Education Policy - IHBB-R](#).

Early Access into kindergarten or first grade was established by House Bill 1021, effective July 2008.

- The student must reach the age of four by October 1 for kindergarten.
- The student must reach the age of five by October 1 for grade one.

[Fast Facts for Early Access](#)

Who will benefit from HB 1021? The HB 1021 defines that 4 or 5 year old child who is “highly advanced gifted child.” The child is academically gifted, socially and emotionally mature and in the **top 2 percent or less of the gifted population**.

[For an overview module on Early Access, please click here](#)

Application Process

- **Apply** - Opens in January (January 3, 2017 – April 1, 2017)
- Receive Early Access / Developmental History Form Packet from GT Office – Generated from application
- Early Access Packet / Portfolio (Due by March 24, 2017)
- Early Access Team will contact parents with completed and qualifying portfolio to schedule Cognitive Testing.
- The Early Access Cognitive Testing cost \$250 (waived for families who have qualified for the free/reduced lunch program)
- Cognitive Testing will be scheduled.

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS



Boredom, underachievement, perfectionism, and succumbing to the effects of peer pressure are predictable when needs for academic advancement and compatible peers are unmet.