

Southwest Licking Local Schools

Early Entrance Kindergarten

Application Packet



Packet must be submitted between April 1st and May 31st to be considered for early entrance to kindergarten. Assessments occur in early June.

Important

Very few children qualify for early entrance to kindergarten. Please make sure you proceed with child care arrangements as a contingency. If you are selecting a preschool program, please understand that many of those programs fill up quickly. Please register your child as you normally would for child care and/or preschool, but let the program know that your child is being screened for early entrance to kindergarten.



927-A South Street
Pataskala, Ohio
43062

Paula Ball
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January 25, 2019

Dear Families,

Thank you for contacting Southwest Licking Schools regarding the evaluation of your child for early entrance to kindergarten for the upcoming school year. To attend kindergarten at Southwest Licking Schools, students must be five years of age by August 1st or be admitted through the early entrance to kindergarten process. This letter explains the evaluation process. The process is based on local school board policy and the statewide model policy for academic acceleration as put forth by the Ohio Department of education. If you have any questions about the procedures, please contact me at (740) 927-3941.

The assessment may involve the use of four instruments: the Iowa Acceleration Scale, a brief screener, a full cognitive ability test, and a full academic achievement test. The Iowa Acceleration Scale serves as a tool for understanding the child's total cognitive, academic, and social/emotional profile in order to make a placement recommendation. The remaining assessments measure a child's problem solving and thinking skills and prior understanding of academic concepts.

Applications for early entrance assessment are accepted between April 1st and May 31st.
Process for Early Entrance Consideration:

1. Complete and return a completed application packet to the Southwest Licking District Office, at 927 South Street A Pataskala, Ohio, by MAY 31, 2018. If your child's birthday falls between August 1st and January 1st, the parent may make the referral. If a child's 5th birthday is after January 1st, the referral must come from a district educator, a certified preschool teacher, a physician, or a psychologist.
2. Permission to test form must be signed and returned with the application packet.
3. A screening appointment will be scheduled for a brief intelligence test at the Southwest District Office. A student must score 115 or higher on this screener in order for further testing to be done. If the score is less than 115, no further testing is needed and the child will not be placed in kindergarten for the 2018 – 2019 school year.
4. Students who do score 115 or higher on this screen will be scheduled for a full ability assessment on another day and potentially a full achievement assessment on a second day. Arrangements will be made and details about testing will be shared when you are notified of your child's score on the screener assessment.

5. Once all testing is completed, you will be notified as to your child's scores. If your child's scores meet the continuation requirement as set by the Iowa Acceleration Scale, a committee meeting consisting usually of the district gifted coordinator, an elementary principal, a kindergarten teacher, and parents will meet to discuss the best placement for the child for the 2018 – 2019 school year.

Please contact me regarding any questions you have about the process and return the early entrance application paperwork by the deadline of May 31st.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula Ball".

Paula Ball
Coordinator of Gifted Services

What is Southwest Licking's early entrance to Kindergarten policy?

Based on the Model Policy for Academic Acceleration (Section 3324.10 of HB 66) requirements for underage admission:

1. If a child is age five between August 1st and January 1st then early entrance to kindergarten may be considered. Families should complete this application packet and return it to the Southwest Licking District Office at 927 South A Street Pataskala, Ohio 43062.
2. If a child is not age five by January 1st then early entrance to kindergarten may be considered. The referral form in this packet must be filled out by an educator within the district, a preschool educator who knows the child, or a pediatrician/psychologist who knows the child.

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

Early entrance is a way to meet a child's needs who is both academically ready as well as developmentally mature when compared to others entering kindergarten.

Is there a difference between ability and achievement?

A child must have above average ability to proceed past the first screener for early entrance consideration. Children who do not score at least 115 on the intelligence screener will not be considered for early entrance 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 achievement, but has the ability to learn new material easily. Ability is measured using a standardized assessment approved by the state of Ohio.

What is expected of students in kindergarten?

Kindergarten has changed considerably over the last couple of decades. Today's kindergarten students are engaged in a rigorous instructional program. Please review the Early Learning Content Standards on the Ohio Department of Education Website. To access this document, go to www.ode.state.oh.us and search "early learning content standards".

Southwest Licking Local Schools
Referral for Assessment for Acceleration Consideration
Early Entrance for Kindergarten

Please complete this referral form if you feel that your child demonstrates academic achievement, social, emotional, and physical maturity appropriate for kindergarten placement and should be considered for early entrance into kindergarten.

Referral for:

Child's Name: _____ Gender: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Parents/Guardians: _____ Relationship: _____

Phone Numbers: _____

Please consider the above child for the following type of early entrance acceleration

Early entrance to kindergarten (child will be 5 before January 1st)

Early entrance to kindergarten (child will NOT be 5 by January 1st)

If the child turns five after January 1st, referral must be made by a physician, psychologist, or district educator, with knowledge of the referred child. By returning this form, you give us permission to contact the person making the referral for early entrance. Signature acknowledging permission: _____

Signature of Referring Person

Relationship to the Child

Date

Contact information:

For birthdays after January 1st, please submit a letter of referral and any documentation to support consideration for early admission to kindergarten.

Student Background

Name of Person completing the form:

Date form is completed:

What skills or qualities does your child display above other children of the same age?

Why do you want your child to attend kindergarten early?

When faced with a difficult task, how does your child react?

Please list all of the child's family members and the ages and grades of all siblings:

What is the primary language spoken in the home?

What language did your child first learn to speak?

Does your child attend preschool or did your child attend preschool in the past? Please list the preschool name and address and name of the teacher and phone number. By providing this information, you are giving us permission to contact the preschool and teacher to obtain information about your child's readiness for kindergarten. Please sign acknowledging this permission: _____

How does your child feel about school?

How would you describe your child's personality?

Any other information we should know about your child:

Southwest Licking Local Schools
Permission for Acceleration Assessment
Early Entrance to Kindergarten

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____ Phone: _____

Your child has been referred as a potential candidate for academic acceleration. Assessments are required for proper placement considerations as well as gifted identification. The following assessments may be administered to your child:

Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test, 2nd Edition (K-BIT2)

Otis Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT)

Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)

Woodcock Johnson Ability and Achievement Tests (WJIII or WJIV)

Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement (KTEA)

Iowa Acceleration Scale

No assessments will be given without written permission.

TESTING IS FOR PLACEMENT PURPOSES ONLY AND DOES NOT GUARANTEE THAT EARLY ENTRANCE WILL BE OFFERED.

I understand that if I grant permission, my child will received assessment(s) by designated personnel and that the information may be shared with teachers, principals, and other appropriate school personnel. I further understand and agree that the information collected by the school district will then be reviewed by the Acceleration Evaluation Committee to see if my child meets the criteria for early entrance to kindergarten, in accordance with state and district policy. I will be notified of the decision making process and meeting to determine the appropriate placement for my child based on the assessments.

_____ Permission is given to conduct the assessments.

Parent/Guardian Signature and Date: _____