

**A Parent's Guide to**  
**Early Entrance to**  
**Kindergarten**  
**or First Grade**



**Anthony Wayne Local Schools**  
**9565 Bucher RD, Whitehouse, OH 43571**  
**419-877-5377**

[www.anthonywayneschools.org](http://www.anthonywayneschools.org)

## **What is Anthony Wayne Schools' early entrance policy?**

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

- A parent may request early admission to kindergarten if the child turns five years of age after the district's kindergarten entrance date of September 30, and before January 1. The local board of education shall determine entrance through a standardized testing program.
- Children who will not yet be the proper age for entrance to kindergarten or first grade by the first day of January of the school year for which admission is requested shall also be evaluated for possible early admittance if referred by an educator within the district, a pre-school educator who knows the child, or pediatrician or psychologist who knows the child.

## **Is early entrance 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 also consider the child's social maturity, personal development, and motor development.

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

- 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 effects for my child as he/she progresses through elementary, middle, and high school?
- Early entrance is not designed as a replacement for childcare. Is this a *need* or a *want*?
- Do I understand the expectations for my child in kindergarten or first grade?

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

## **What is expected of students in kindergarten and first grade?**

Kindergarten and first grade expectations have changed considerably over the last couple of decades. Today's young learners 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 <http://www.ode.state.oh.us> and search for *Early Learning Content Standards*.

## **How will my child be evaluated for early entrance?**

The evaluation will be conducted by a team of educators and consists of tests determining achievement and aptitude, using nationally normed standardized documents as approved by the State of Ohio and recommended by the Iowa Acceleration Manual. Students exhibiting advanced intellectual ability and reason should be considered for early entrance. Motor skills, maturity, and socialization are also examined to assess readiness of the child for kindergarten or first grade.

The following instruments may be used in the screening and evaluation process: The DIAL-3, K-RAL, Kindergarten Readiness Test, First Grade Readiness Test, Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC), Wechsler Individual Achievement Test (WIAT), Woodcock Johnson Tests of Cognitive Abilities (WJ-COG), and/or Woodcock Johnson Tests of Achievement (WJ-ACH).

If you believe your child may be a good candidate for early entrance, please call to request a copy of the *Application for Early Entrance to Kindergarten/First Grade* from the Enrollment Coordinator by calling **419-877-5377**. This document is available on the district website, <http://www.anthonywayneschools.org>.

Once the application has been completed, contact the Enrollment Coordinator for an appointment as soon as possible in order to secure your child's spot for testing. No applications will be accepted after August 1.

The following documentation must be included with the application:

- Proof of residency in the Anthony Wayne School District (two current utility bills)
- Proof of custody, if applicable
- Your child's birth certificate

## **Important!**

Very few children qualify for early entrance to Kindergarten. Please make sure you proceed with childcare arrangements as a contingency. If you are selecting a Preschool program please understand that those programs routinely fill up quickly. Please enroll your child in the Preschool program as you normally would, but let the Preschool know that your child is being screened for early entrance to kindergarten.

## **So what's the process?**

- ❑ Read *A Parent's Guide to Early Entrance to Kindergarten or First Grade*
- ❑ Complete the *Early Entrance Application Packet* (available on our website <http://www.anthonywayneschools.org>)
- ❑ Call the Enrollment Coordinator at Anthony Wayne Local Schools (419-877-5377) to schedule an appointment to bring in your Application Packet and required documents
- ❑ Your application will be processed
- ❑ Your child will be evaluated
- ❑ You will be notified of the results