



To meet the needs of highly advanced development, early access to educational services may be considered as a special provision (Colorado Department of Education) <https://www.cde.state.co.us/gt/earlyaccess2016>



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## Mt. Evans BOCES Early Access Policy



**Definitions** *Early access means early entrance to kindergarten or first grade for highly advanced gifted children under age six.*

*“Highly advanced gifted child” means a gifted child whose body of evidence demonstrates a profile of exceptional ability or potential compared to same-age gifted children.*

Children for early access are exceptionally precocious and ready for school earlier than their same-age peers. Academic achievement, reasoning ability, performance and motivation are keen compared to other gifted children.

### Step 1: Inquiry/Information

Early Access information is on the Mt. Evans BOCES website.

First week in January information made available with contact, dates, and process information.



- ★ Application opens January 15th and closes April 1st
- ★ Parent submits a letter requesting consideration for Early Access to K or 1st grade by January 15
- ★ All inquiries forwarded to Mt. Evans BOCES Gifted Education office for processing and tracking.
- ★ Parent/guardian information packet provided to parent that includes all documents and guidelines

**Step 2: Application Process** Application/Portfolio is completed and submitted by the parent/guardian to the district by April 1st with a \$250 check. The fee of \$250.00 covers the cost of assessment. Students/families qualifying for free lunch will not be assessed a fee. Students/ families qualifying for reduced lunch will be assessed an adjusted fee. Items include:

- *Family Contact Information* form; Developmental history; *Kingore Observation Inventory for Parents*; Checklist of *My Child's Strengths* from *Teaching Gifted Children in the Regular Classroom*; any supporting anecdotal information;
- If child attends Preschool or Kindergarten, include the *Early Access to Kindergarten or 1st Grade Academic Progress* form;
- Documentation to show that the child will reach the age of four by September 1<sup>st</sup> or the beginning of the school year, whichever comes first, to be included in kindergarten. **OR** reach the age of five by September 1st or the beginning of the school year, whichever comes first, to be included in 1st grade; and
- Application/Portfolio is forwarded to Mt. Evans BOCES Gifted Education office.

By April 15th, the Review Team meets to review the completed portfolio and will make one of two decisions: Obtain consent or decline to evaluate. **If the team declines, the \$250 fee is returned.** Parents will be contacted via phone with a follow-up letter.

### Step 3: Assessment

- Individual testing April 16th-May 4th with gifted personnel. Areas to be assessed include: cognitive ability, academic achievement, motor, and social/emotional skills.
- Testing to be completed by the first full week in May.
- ***The child must have a Full Scale or Index score at the 97th percentile or higher on a standardized mental ability, 97th% percentile or higher on achievement assessment (math and reading) AND the portfolio Body of Evidence should strongly support the child's ability to be successful in the school setting.***
- In order to be placed a student must be formally identified as Gifted & Talented.
- Parents will be contacted with the decision of the placement team by Mt. Evans BOCES Gifted Education personnel or District Gifted Education Coordinator by the last day of May.

