



Mt. Evans BOCES

Clear Creek RE1 - Gilpin RE1 - Platte Canyon #1

Strong Partnerships Ensuring Success for Exceptional Students

Mt. Evans BOCES Early Access to Kindergarten/ 1st Grade Process for Highly Gifted Children

Step 1: Inquiry/Information

- Information will be posted on the BOCES website to be available year round.
- First Week in January, Dates for the Process will be Posted
- Parent/guardian submits a letter requesting consideration for Early Access **January 15th-March 15th** application window.
- All inquiries forwarded to Mt. Evans BOCES Gifted Education office for processing and tracking at Mt. Evans BOCES, 10595 Highway 119, Blackhawk, CO 80422. District gifted education coordinator keeps a copy for building/district files.
- Parent/guardian information packet provided to parent and PK setting, if applicable, that includes all documents and guidelines for the Early Access process.

Step 2: Application and Submission

- Application, including the Portfolio is completed and submitted by the parent/guardian to the district gifted coordinator by April 1st.
- Application/Portfolio to include:
 - *Early Access Application* to Kindergarten or First Grade
 - Permission to evaluate, including classroom observation
 - Developmental history
 - *Kingore Observation Inventory for Parents*
 - Letter from preschool teacher recommending student, if applicable
 - Portfolio items supported by *Kingore Portfolio Guidelines*
 - Checklist of *My Child's Strengths* from *Teaching Gifted Children in the Regular Classroom*
 - *Early Access to Kindergarten or 1st Grade Academic Progress Information* completed by preschool teacher, if applicable and if not in preschool, completed by parent
 - Any supporting anecdotal information
 - Any available test data (public/private testing, etc.)
 - Other Items Parent Deems Appropriate
 - Documentation must be included to show that the child will:
 - Reach the age of four by September 1st or the beginning of the school year, whichever comes first, to be included in kindergarten.
 - Reach the age of five by September 1st or the beginning of the school year, whichever comes first, to be included in first grade.
- Application/Portfolio is forwarded to Mt. Evans BOCES Gifted Education office.

Step 3: Screening

- By **April 15th**, an Early Access Application/Portfolio Review Team meets to discuss and

review the completed portfolio and determine if the student needs further assessment and would benefit academically and socially from Early Access.

- The team reviews the documents and makes one of two decisions:
 - Request an Evaluation
 - Decline to Evaluate

The review team includes:

- Mt. Evans BOCES gifted education personnel
- District gifted education coordinator
- Principal or principal's designee
- Preschool director
- Other personnel as determined by need

(At least one member of the team must have a current endorsement in gifted education.)

Step 4: Assessment/Testing

- BOCES Gifted Education personnel schedule individual testing. Areas to be assessed include: cognitive ability, academic achievement, motor skills, and social/emotional skills.
- Testing to be completed by the first full week in May.
- A \$250.00 fee will be assessed, as approved by the BOCES Board and member district Boards to cover the cost of testing. Students/families qualifying for free lunch will not be assessed a fee. Students/ families qualifying for reduced lunch will be assessed an adjusted fee.

Step 5: Determination, and Notice of Eligibility

- In order to be placed a student must be formally identified as Gifted & Talented. They must have a **Full Scale or Index score at the 97th percentile or higher** on a standardized mental ability, **97% percentile or higher on achievement assessments AND the portfolio Body of Evidence should strongly support the child's ability to be successful** in the school setting.
- Consensus by all involved parties will need to be confirmed for early access placement to occur. If a consensus cannot be formed, additional data will need to be collected.
- 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**.
- The parent notification will occur via an initial phone call. Formal notification of the determination will be mailed to parents.
 - For students who were declined, suggestions will be offered to support and assist parents in next steps for their child.
 - If a student is deemed gifted but not suitable for early access, the principal of the child's home school is contacted by phone and a copy of the child's portfolio is provided to the school.
 - If the child is placed in the program, a copy of this determination will be part of the student's ALP. A conference is scheduled with the parents/guardians and the gifted education coordinator to develop an Advanced Learning Plan (required by state rules for all identified GT students) by September 30th of enrollment year.
- The final decision to accept or not to accept a student is at the discretion of the district.