



Mesa - 39031

## Early Access Addendum

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THE FOLLOWING SECTION IS REQUIRED IF THE ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT PERMITS EARLY ACCESS TO KINDERGARTEN OR FIRST GRADE. Refer to ECEA rules 12.08 for describing all sections and provisions required for early access.

**Early Access: Rule Section 10.02(1)(H) and 12.08 Gifted children who qualify for grade level acceleration and are age 4 for kindergarten, or age 5 for first grade, by October 1**

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**Directions:**

**Address each section and the provisions of the early access ECEA Rules 12.08.**

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/gt/lawsregs>

**In each section below, describe the methods and/or tools that the administrative unit will implement for early access communication, criteria and process. Type your response in the white boxes referencing the topics.**

## Communication

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This process is only available in D51 (as part of the Mesa AU).

Criteria and the process for early access is explained and accessible to parents, educators, and the public via our website, newspaper ads during application window, information on local news stations, and information shared with principals, school psychologists, and GT Teachers.

Applications available January, due end of February, testing March and April, determinations made by end of April. Students are only considered for Early Access if they will turn 4 or 5 by October 1st (depending on application to Kindergarten or 1st grade respectively).

Professional development is provided by GT Coordinator to gifted education personnel, principals, and school psychologist in order for them to share with their school community.

A determination letter is sent out to every parent (even for those students not meeting Early Access criteria) including information on sharing with the school when the student enrolls. The GT Teacher and Principal at the school the student will attend receives and email and information regarding the body of evidence. The GT Teachers assists with writing of the ALP and supporting the parents and teachers.

## Criteria

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**Aptitude:**

**97%ile on WPPSI**

**Achievement:**

**Kindergarten 100 KPA and 100 KMA; 1<sup>st</sup> Grade 200 KPA and 100 KMA**

**Performance:****Parent Rating 120, Teacher Rating 20, RIST 124****Readiness, social behavior and motivation:****Indicated on application and in anecdotal notes from EA Team members and School Psychologist****Support system:****GT Teacher and Principal at home school****ALP (collaboratively created including parents) includes a transition goal for first year. The ALP includes student's strength area(s), interests, instructional needs, and affective needs. Progress reports are included at least every 5 weeks and shared with parents. Each goal tells who will help support, what method/material(s) will be used to support, when this support will be provided, and check in times for progress monitoring and adjustment of goals.**

## Process

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**Timelines:**

Applications available January, due end of February, testing March and April, final determinations made by end of April. Communication is openly shared with parents from the time their application is received until the determination is made. Sometimes the team determines they need to gather more information and/or testing. The team makes determinations within 60 calendar days once the team has gathered a full body of evidence. Students are only considered for Early Access if they will turn 4 or 5 by October 1st (depending on application to Kindergarten or 1st grade respectively).

Professional development is provided by GT Coordinator to gifted education personnel, principals, and school psychologist in order for them to share with their school community.

Parents are charged a \$15 application fee to start the process. If the student continues through all of the testing the parents will also pay a \$90 fee for the full cognitive test. Both of these fees are waived when the parents or guardians meet the criteria for free and reduced lunch.

The application and cognitive screener are used as the screening portfolio. This is stated within the application packet and online.

The body of evidence includes a checklist and short answer from parent and educator outlining strengths, performance, readiness, needs, and interests. A cognitive score of 97%ile or above is required on the WPPSI. Students must also score exceptionally high on the academic tests. Performance tools are all aligned to demonstrate abilities are above age peers. Readiness, social behavior, and motivation are measured using parent and teacher referrals and also Early Access Team members' anecdotal notes when interacting and observing student. Each test in the process is given by personnel qualified to give that assessment. The body of evidence includes qualitative (parent/teacher written responses, EA Team member's anecdotal notes, Draw a Person, interviews, notes from school psychologist, etc.) and quantitative (RIAS, WPPSI, KPA and KMA, behavior checklists) data.

**Personnel:**

An Early Access Team is established every year including at least one of each of the following: GT Teacher, Kindergarten Teacher, School Psychologist, GT Coordinator. This team collaborates to review each body of evidence and make determinations regarding early access. This collaboration is all documented on a Google spreadsheet showing each student.



**Evaluation:**

Every year the Early Access Team reviews all of these areas before the process begins and after the process has been completed. Process, steps, and requirements are evaluated and adjusted as needed.

**Monitoring:**

GT Teachers are emailed the spring before the student starts and the fall the student starts to remind them to write the ALP. These ALPs are submitted with October count (which means they have to be completed no later than September 30). Student's ALP goals are progress monitored every 5 weeks at minimum.

**Dispute Resolution: Will the AU be using the same procedure for disagreements process as in the main Program Plan? Yes**

**The administrative unit's program plan is due with the Comprehensive Program Plan or no later than January 1 prior to early access implementation.**