

Corbett School District

A Guide to Early Entry to Kindergarten

Definition:

Early Entry to Kindergarten (EEK) refers to the process and possible placement of a student in a kindergarten program before they turn five. This process allows for children whose fifth birthday falls between September 2 and November 1 to apply for early entry. There are no exceptions to this rule. The child **MUST** turn five before November 1.

Early Entry is about kindergarten “readiness” which may be complex. There are many factors that determine readiness such as: date of birth in relation to the cutoff dates, academic levels, social and emotional maturity, and the ability to communicate with others. Children who are ready to enter kindergarten early must show an appropriate level of academic readiness and perform well on a cognitive assessment.

Process:

Parents/guardians who seek early entry for a child must begin the process online to access the EEK Application. This can be found on the Corbett Grade School Webpage. All required documents are outlined there. Once all documents are turned into the building administrator, the parents/guardians are notified and the child is scheduled for a brief interview and assessment. This usually takes between 30-45 minutes.

Using a body of evidence, a team made up of teachers, speech and language therapists, a school counselor, and a building administrator makes a recommendation either to allow for early entry or not. A summary is then written and a copy goes to the parents/guardians. The school principal makes the final decision on placement.

EEK decisions are based on the whole child and should follow these guidelines:

- EEK process has been followed
- Current achievement shows there is academic readiness
- Academic gaps will not be created as an unintended consequence
- The child’s linguistic and cultural needs are addressed
- The social/emotional well-being of the student is seriously considered
- Ability to adapt to changing environments

Timeline:

Timing is a critical factor in making decisions for incoming students. All applications must be received on or before May 15 to be considered, no exceptions. It will be the responsibility of the parents/guardians to adhere to the schedule and/or lottery deadlines.