

Important Considerations

The Allegany County Early Admission Process and Guidelines have been established to identify children who have the advanced academic skills and emotional maturity to enter first grade early.

The Allegany County first grade curriculum requires a rigorous reading, math, science and social studies program based on Maryland's State Curriculum.

A child who enters first grade early will be younger than his or her classmates throughout their academic career. This means that the child may well be the youngest student in his or her high school class. Parents should consider if this puts their child at academic and/or social disadvantage.

Early entry is the equivalent of skipping a grade, not just giving a head start.

There may be less leadership opportunities in upper grades.

There may be negative effects in GPA and class ranking which will impact the college application and acceptance process.



Allegany County Public Schools

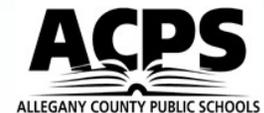
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Early Admission to First Grade



Great Teaching. Great Learning. Every Student. Every Day.



Early Admission Facts

The Allegany County Board of Education has established a process and guidelines for evaluation of early admission to first grade requests for five-year-old children.

The student must demonstrate superior intellectual and academic achievement which is on or above first grade level, and is comparable to the peer group in which the placement occurs.

The student must exhibit advanced social, emotional, and physical maturity appropriate for first grade placement; and which is comparable to the peer group in which placement occurs.

Young children who demonstrate capabilities that exceed the challenge typically presented in a grade one program should be provided the opportunity for early entry if their birthday is prior to **October 15**.

The student cannot have been denied early entry to kindergarten based on the early admission process.

Applications received on or before **May 15** will be reviewed by June 30. The application process begins at your home school. Contact your school for applications.

Early Admission Process

Parents/guardians will make a written request for early admission at the elementary school designated for their residential district.

Applications will be accepted from the first day of spring registration through **May 15**.

School principal will meet with parents/guardians and provide information about early entrance.

Parents/guardians will be given a copy of the Early Admission Parent Survey to complete within 5 days.

School Principal will convene a meeting of the School Team and parents/guardians will be invited.

Parents/guardians will provide permission for assessments

School personnel will administer the Test of Early Reading Ability (TERA-4), Required score 121 and Test of Early Mathematics Ability (TEMA-3), Required score 120. If a student scores less than 121 and 120 respectively, early admission will not be granted. Scoring 121 and 120 or higher respectively warrants further testing.

Additional assessment requirements, all of which must be met for student to be considered for early admission, are:

- Developmental Profile (DP-4) Required score 116

Early Admission Process cont.

- Beginning Year Screener, Dynamic Indicator of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS), Required score Above Benchmark
- Beginning of Year First Grade Math Benchmark, Required Score Above Level

Assessment results will be given to the school principal, who will reconvene the School Team for review.

The School Principal will complete a written Early Assessment to First Grade Documentation Summary which will be provided at a meeting with parents/guardians and the School Team.

Parents/guardians will have 10 days to submit a written appeal to the Superintendent following parental receipt of the Early Admission to First Grade Documentation Summary.

Our goal is to work collaboratively with families to ensure that the best long-range decision is made for each child.

