

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

*Q: Who is Early Access designed for?*

A: Early Access was created to meet the needs of a very few “highly advanced gifted” children who are academically, socially and emotionally ready for school. It would not be appropriate for most gifted children.

*Q: What does the application and evaluation for Early Access cost?*

A: Early Access applications and assessments are provided by the Boulder Valley School District free of cost to in-district applicants.

*Q: Will the Boulder Valley School District accept privately acquired testing and assessments?*

A: No. In order to ensure equity, all assessments will be conducted by district personnel. Outside assessments will not be accepted. Children will be assessed for evidence of readiness, literacy, numeracy and abstract reasoning.

*Q: Can I stay in the room during my child’s assessment?*

A: Assessments are conducted by certified and licensed professionals. Evaluating the child’s ability to separate from their parent/guardian and engage in the assessments is a part of the total evaluation. Parents will not be allowed in the room during the evaluation process.

*Q: Is Early Access only available to children whose first language is English?*

A: No. Language support for assessments will be provided as needed. Assessments for Early Access were selected to be culturally, linguistically, and ethnically nonbiased.

*Q: If my child is granted Early Access, which school will s/he attend?*

A: Students accepted for Early Access are guaranteed enrollment into their neighborhood school. Families who wish to participate in the Open Enrollment (OE) process, may apply for a kindergarten OE slot during the OE application window. If a student is accepted through Early Access into a regular BVSD school, they will be promoted to the appropriate grade level at the school. Horizons K-8 Charter will follow this process on a space-available basis. Students who wish to OE to Peak to Peak Charter may do so after they have been assessed and determined eligible for Early Access. For more information about OE, see <http://bvsd.org/openenrollment/Pages/default.aspx>

*Q: If my child is granted Early Access to kindergarten, will s/he go to school for a half day or a full day?*

A: Children who enter kindergarten will attend for a half day unless their school provides full day kindergarten. If a school provides both half day and full day kindergarten, the placement decision will be made by the principal in order to provide the environment that is best for the student and ensures a balanced enrollment in classes.

*Q: If my child is granted Early Access, what curriculum will s/he receive?*

A: Students who are granted Early Access will be given the same curricular options as other students in their grade and differentiation strategies appropriate to their needs.

*Q: What if I don’t agree with the committee’s decision regarding my child?*

A: Decisions regarding Early Access are made by a committee of professionals based on many factors gathered in a body of evidence. If a child is granted Early Access, the parents retain the option of not accepting it if they change their minds. They may enroll their child according to regular district age guidelines. If a child is denied Early Access which parents feel very strongly is not appropriate, they may file an appeal in accordance with regular district policy guidelines (Policy KL Public Complaints and KLB Public Complaints about the Curriculum or Instructional Materials or Strategies) that can be found at <http://bvsd.org/policies/Pages/IndexK.aspx>.