

Kindergarten Early Entry/Grade Placement

The Illinois Legislature passed the Illinois Accelerated Placement Act, Public Act 100-0421, and effective July 1, 2018. This act allows Illinois public school districts to provide early access to educational services for kindergarten and first grade students to meet the needs of the highly advanced gifted child.

Children are normally admitted to kindergarten if their 5th birthday is on or before September 1 of that school year, and to first grade if their 6th birthday is on or before September 1 of that school year.

Donovan CUSD #3 recognizes some children may benefit academically, socially and/or emotionally from accelerating and/or grade skipping. Highly advanced gifted students may be granted early entrance to kindergarten or first grade and accelerated in district academic programs.

The Process:

Step 1:

- Early entry requires a child to have attended at least one year of a certified preschool program.
- Donovan CUSD #3 residency must be established by the parent/guardian. Parent/guardian must also provide the child's birth certificate.

Step 2:

- Parent/Guardian may request in writing with reasons for placement consideration submitted by April 1 prior to fall enrollment.
- Appointments will be scheduled for achievement and social emotional screening.

Step 3:

- Scales for Identifying Gifted Students (SIGS) forms will be completed.
 - School form will be completed by the preschool teacher, or kindergarten teacher if applicable
 - Home form will be completed and submitted to school by parent/guardian

Step 4:

- Data collected, if the child is within the 95th percentile, additional assessments may be scheduled.

Step 5:

- Parent/guardian meeting is scheduled with the Evaluation team to discuss results and possible placement options.

*District has final decision on student placement

Accelerated Placement Program - Single subject and/or grade acceleration

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Identification Process

Step 1 – Screening:

- All students in grades K-8 are administered a universal screener every fall.
- Students are tested in the areas of reading and math during the fall, winter, and spring.
- Students who score at or above the 95th percentile on one or more of the assessments are automatically considered for the second identification step. Donovan CUSD #3 also recognizes the referrals of parents/guardians, teachers, and outside professionals for consideration for further screening.

Step 2 - Data collection - Information is collected on students from a variety of sources, which may include:

- Parent Scale for Identifying Gifted Students (SIGS) form
- Teacher Scale for Identifying Gifted Students (SIGS) form
- State standardized test scores
- Local normed achievement scores

Step 3:

- Data review by school's Evaluation Team

Step 4:

- Parent/guardian meeting is scheduled with the Evaluation team to discuss results and possible placement options.

Criteria for Identification

Data Summary – In order to be formally identified, a student must have a majority of qualifying evidence – generally the 95th percentile or above from the following categories:

- Characteristics and behaviors of gifted (SIGS forms)
- Intellectual ability
- Achievement

Retesting for Identification

To maintain assessment validity, students may have to wait two years for retesting. For the same purpose, parents/guardians and students may not view the testing materials described above. Results only will be discussed.

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