

Grade Acceleration/Early Admission to 4-year-old, 5-year-old & 1st grade Considerations

- Grade acceleration or early admission/entrance means enrolling a child in 4K, 5K or 1st before they have reached the ages of a typical student for that grade per Wisconsin DPI dates (September 1st). Making the decision on whether or not grade acceleration through early entrance is right for your child is not an easy one. Not all school districts in Wisconsin allow grade acceleration. Only students with a September birthday are eligible.
- In order for this to happen, the School District of Beloit will gather information to be sure your child is ready for and is likely to benefit academically, socially, emotionally and behaviorally from acceleration.
- The primary reason for grade acceleration or early admission/entrance is to provide an appropriate setting for a child who is very advanced in all areas of their development, including thinking, reasoning, fine motor, academic, language, and social-emotional. Accelerated placement is not limited to those students who are identified as gifted and talented; it is open to all students who demonstrate high ability and who may benefit from accelerated placement.
- We recognize that each child and every situation may be different. We encourage you to look at every aspect of your child's development when making the decision of whether or not to apply. Remember, there are other options to consider besides early entry or grade acceleration. Choosing a "Plan B" is a good idea just in case your child is not approved for permanent accelerated entry. You may want to also enroll your child in a preschool, or another activity such as gymnastics, music, dance classes, an art group, etc. This can help with social- communication, gross and fine motor skills development, language development and overall readiness for when your child does begin school.
- Grade acceleration applications will only be accepted between February 1st to May 1st for students residing in the School District of Beloit with September birthdays. If you are considering open-enrolling into the School District of Beloit, you will need to work in your resident district for assessment.

Things to Think About

Developmentally:

1. Is my child exceptional in terms of thinking and reasoning?
2. Does my child have an adequate attention span, and stamina to be with older classmates?
3. Will my child be cooperative and comfortable, or fearful and unable to control his/her emotions and behavior?

Social-Emotional:

1. Does my child enjoy being with older children?
2. Will my child do well in a group where students may be more than a year or two older?
3. Does my child have an adequate coping skill to deal with their frustration?

Academically:

1. Has my child developed good academic skills for their accelerated grade?
 - 4K - Awareness of sounds, rhyming, letter identification, counting, name identification/writing, vocabulary, problem solving, book handling skills, emergent reading, etc.
 - 5K – Reading foundational skills, addition/subtraction, book handling skills, problem solving, writing, name writing, etc.
 - 1st grade – Reading foundational skills, reading comprehension, addition/subtraction, writing, problem solving, etc.
2. Has my child developed language skills where they can communicate their thoughts and wishes to their teacher?

Looking Ahead to Intermediate & High School:

1. What impact will grade acceleration have on my child's experiences with adolescent issues, such as possible smaller body-size/height, peers reaching puberty sooner, driver's licensing, dating, etc.?
2. What about participation in competitive sports (physical size), summer camp (age requirements), and competition for scholarships?
3. How old will my child be as a freshman in college away from home?

Inappropriate Reasons to Consider Grade Acceleration and/or Early Entrance:

1. Wanting to tell a child he/she can start school because his/her best friend is starting.
2. My child can read, sing their ABC, and count to 10.
3. My child seems as "ready" as others enrolling.
4. Needs daycare

Appropriate Reasons to Consider Grade Acceleration and/or Early Entrance:

1. To provide an appropriate setting for a child who is very advanced and balanced in various areas of their development.
2. Child has good social skills, and may be a year above grade level in language development, reading, adding, subtracting, and writing.

SDB Grade Acceleration and Early Admission Process

Step 1: Parents/guardians who live in the School District of Beloit can obtain a Grade Acceleration/ Early Entry Application form the Central Enrollment Office. Deadline to complete applications on May 1st for an acceptance date to start the school year with their accelerated classmates. This process takes 6-8 weeks with several stages to the assessment. This process is for School District of Beloit students

Step 2: A meeting is scheduled with a TLE director to discuss the process.

Step 3: The completed applications are reviewed by the Grade Acceleration/Early Entry Team.

- If it is determined that early admissions are not appropriate, parents are notified in writing.
- If it is determined that early admission may be appropriate, proceed to step 4.

Step 4: Team members schedule and conduct assessment(s) in stages. This process takes 6-8 weeks.

Step 5: Team reviews the findings of each report of assessment summary. Finding criteria: Families will be contacted after each assessment stage with a progress report and when necessary a preview of the next assessment round.

Finding criteria:

- Cognitively the student needs to score 115 or higher on verbal and non-verbal.
- Visual/Motor Integration students need to score average for the accelerated grade.
- Social-emotional & behavior skills need to be average for the accelerated grade.
- Fine/gross motor skills need to be average for the accelerated grade.
- Oral language skills need to be average for the accelerated grade.

Step 6: Parents and CEO are notified in writing of the decision.

- If it is determined that grade acceleration is appropriate, the decision is conditional and reviewed by a school team between 6-8 weeks. At that time, a student could be placed back in a classroom with their age-group peers.
- If it is determined that early admission is not appropriate, parents are notified in writing. Parents may appeal.

If you disagree with the decision the Grade Acceleration Team has made regarding your child's grade acceleration status, you may appeal the decision of the Grade Acceleration Team by submitting a grievance and the reason for the grievance in writing, within five (5) school days of the Grade Acceleration's decision. The superintendent, or executive director designee, shall review the written documentation of the evaluation, and may confer with the Grade Acceleration Team, as deemed necessary. The superintendent shall in-form you of their decision in writing, within five (5) school days.

School District of Beloit Grade Acceleration/Early Entrance Application

Please complete the following information:

Name of Child _____ **D.O.B.** _____ **AGE:** _____

Last Name

First Name

(September birthdays only)

Address _____

Street

City/State _____ ZIP Code _____ Home Phone _____

Name of Parents/Legal Guardians

Last Name

First Name

Last Name

First Name

Resident School: _____

**Grade Acceleration/
Early Admission
Requested:**

☐ **4K**

☐ **5K**

☐ **1st Grade**

I am applying for grade acceleration/early admission of my child to 4-Year-Old Kindergarten, 5-Year-Old Kindergarten or First Grade. I have received the Grade Acceleration Packet which includes this Grade Acceleration Admission Application, and Parent Inventory, Grade Acceleration Application process for early entry, and/or the Considering grade acceleration handout. My signature below indicates my consent to the District's assessment of my child for grade acceleration which will include the following: individual developmental, cognitive, fine/gross motor, academic and readiness assessments.

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian

Date

----- **For School Use Only** -----

Date Received by Central Enrollment Office _____ ☐ Accepted ☐ Denied (Rcv'd after May 1st)

Parent/Legal Guardian Verified: ☐ _____ Child D.O.B. Verified: ☐ _____

FORWARD TO: Director of School Leadership and Equity ☐ Date Forwarded: _____

Grade Acceleration Team Initial Review: Date Completed _____ ☐ Appropriate ☐ Not Appropriate

Grade Acceleration Team Assessment: Date Completed _____ ☐ Appropriate ☐ Not Appropriate

Director in Teaching, Learning & Equity: ☐ Accepted ☐ Denied

Signature - Director in Teaching, Learning & Equity

Date

Parent Inventory

Student Name: _____ Parent Name: _____

If you feel your child has special talents, please check the following statements to describe your child as you see them.

Key: 1) seldom or never 2) occasionally 3) most of the time 4) all of the time

	1	2	3	4
Displays a good deal of intellectual playfulness, fantasizes, imagines, manipulates ideas.				
Has curiosity; shows independence in trying to learn more about something.				
Chooses difficult problems over simple ones.				
Adapts to new situations, flexible in thought and action and not disturbed if normal routine is changed.				
Uses unique and unusual ways to solve problems.				
Displays a great deal of curiosity about many things, often going beyond the usual interest of this age.				
Can follow-directions and participate with a group without being distracted.				
Reasons things out, thinks clearly, comprehends meaning.				
Expresses ideas, thoughts, and feelings to adults and peers.				
Has interest in older children or of adults in games, reading, and play.				
Is alert and keenly observant and responds quickly.				
Creates unique art				
Sings and created unique songs				
Can get lost in books for an extended amount of time				
Builds unique buildings and structures				
Strives toward perfection, is self-critical, is not easily satisfied with own speed or progress.				
Excels in coordination and agility.				
Can perform more difficult mental tasks than peers.				
Sticks to a project or idea once it is started, not easily distracted or discouraged.				
Has many different ways of solving problems				
Challenges authority when sense of justice is offended, structures alternative approaches.				
Displays a keen sense of humor and sees humor in situations that may not appear to be humorous to others.				
Has unusually advanced vocabulary for age level, uses terms in a meaningful way.				

Key: 1) seldom or never 2) occasionally 3) most of the time 4) all of the time

	1	2	3	4
Can mentally work with adding and subtracting numbers.				
Can recognize numbers 0-20. (Question for children ages 4k & 5k only)				
Can orally count forward to 30. (Question for 4k)				
Can orally count forward to 100 (Question for 5K)				
Can identify letters in their name and writes name legibly. (Question for children ages 4k and 5k only)				
Can identify letters and sounds. (24 of 26 letters) (Question for 5k only)				
Can rhyme words easily (5K only)				
Speaks clearly. (Question for children ages 4k and 5k only)				
Can speak using sentences with prepositional phrases (at the park, in the lake. down the street, with my sister, etc.)				
Can speak using sentences with transition & conjunctions (and, but, because, yet)				

How does your child interact with other children? Please explain and consider whether or not your child shares. takes turns, and cooperates with peers.

How does your child interact with other adults? Please explain and consider whether or not your child will follow direction, listen when first spoken to and respond respectfully.

How does your child respond to a full-day of activities and instruction? Please describe.

How does your child react when they are frustrated?

Why do you feel your child should be considered for an accelerated grade?