



Early Enrollment Guidance for Preschool & Kindergarten

Athens City School District (ACSD)

Please follow the chart below to find options for enrolling your child in school.

To enroll in kindergarten at Athens City School District, your child must turn 5 years old on or before the first day of instruction for the upcoming school year.

Child's Age	Enrollment Option
If your child is 3	Private preschool
If your child is 3 AND already receiving services	If your child receives special services, families may work with Special Education to arrange a placement.
If your child is 4	Private or ACSD Preschool regardless of prior completed preschool years.
If your child is 4 and is gifted or very advanced in all developmental areas.	Early Entrance Testing. <i>This option is only for students who meet eligibility requirements, not for students who miss the cut off date by a few days.</i> Families must complete the registration process and apply for the early entrance process. Placements are not permanent until after the first 6 weeks of school.
If your child is 5 on or before Aug 1st	Enroll in Kindergarten regardless of preschool experience.
If your child is not 5 before Aug 1st	Enroll in a private or ACSD preschool.
If your child is 5 and entering grade 1	You must show documentation of a completed kindergarten year; otherwise, your child must go through the early entrance process.
If your child is 6 and enrolling in grade 1	With kindergarten documentation, your child may enroll in grade 1. If you are not able to provide kindergarten documentation, your child will need to enroll in kindergarten or follow the early entrance process.

- If your child is currently enrolled in ACSD preschool programs, they do not need to attend kindergarten registration.
- Depending upon special service needs, available space or placement decisions, a child may attend more than one year of preschool.
- If a child who is not 5 on or before the first day of school wishes to apply for early entrance testing, they *must attend registration for preschool and* make an appointment for early entrance testing.
- If your family requests early entrance for 1st Grade, you must show proof of a kindergarten experience according to the school district's policy, otherwise your child must follow the early entrance process. This applies to homeschooled families and out of state transfers.
- If your family chooses to apply for early entrance, you may request an interpreter if your child is not fluent in english.
- If your child completes the 6 week trial of the early entrance process without success, they are not guaranteed a preschool placement. It is advisable for families to have a back up plan.

Applying for Early Entrance to Kindergarten

If your child is not 5 on or before the first day of school in the Athens City School District and is gifted or advanced, the early entrance process is provided to determine the best placement for your child.

1. Read the Parent Information and Guide for Early Entrance Admission to Kindergarten by:
 - Visiting your residential elementary school *or*
 - Searching the [ACSD Gifted Services website](#) *or* [athenscsd.org](#) > Departments > **Gifted Services**
 - Calling the Office of Exceptional Children at (740) 797-4516 *ext. 1207*
2. Second, complete the application and return it to the ACSD Central Office of Exceptional Children at (740) 797-4516 *ext. 1207*.
3. Attend preschool registration at your residential school building.
4. You will receive a phone call to schedule an appointment time for an evaluation.
5. Have your child prepare and attend the testing session. Complete the parent questionnaire at the time of testing. Read the kindergarten booklet explaining kindergarten readiness.
6. Your elementary school principal will contact you with your child's results indicating eligibility.
 - If your child is eligible, a meeting may be set at that time to review a plan. Attend the meeting to make a final decision. A six week trial period is required. Placements are based on weekly progress and not complete until after 6 weeks. Be certain to have a back up plan..
 - If your child is not eligible, you may choose from additional preschool options.
7. After this part of the process is complete, your child will begin the 6 week trial. During this time, the placement is tentative. Assimilation sheets as well as other observational data *if available*, will be used to determine an appropriate fit. A final decision is made by the consensus of the committee.