Early Access Addendum

THE FOLLOWING SECTION IS REQUIRED IF THE ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT PERMITS EARLY ACCESS TO KINDERGARTEN OR FIRST GRADE. Refer to ECEA rules 12.08 for describing all sections and provisions required for early access.

Early Access: Rule Section 10.02(1)(H) and 12.08 Gifted children who qualify for grade level acceleration and are age 4 for kindergarten, or age 5 for first grade, by October 1

Directions:
Address each section and the provisions of the early access ECEA Rules 12.08.
http://www.cde.state.co.us/gt/lawsregs
In each section below, describe the methods and/or tools that the administrative unit will implement for early access communication, criteria and process. Type your response in the white boxes referencing the topics.

Communication

• Process and criteria will be posted on PSD gifted website. In addition, all important dates and communication will be submitted to communications department for them to post on main district page.
• Administrators will be informed of process during a monthly principal meeting. Follow-up conversations can be scheduled one-on-one between principal and gifted facilitator. Gifted site coordinators will receive training at site coordinator meetings. Gifted identification specialists will also receive additional training/information as needed. They, along with the district facilitator will be the main points of contact for anything regarding early access.

Criteria

Aptitude:
Aptitude: If the student is four years old, they will be given the K-BIT as part of their body of evidence. A score in the 97th percentile or higher is required for early access. If the student is not yet four years old, they will be given the WPPSI as part of their body of evidence, where a score in the 97th percentile or higher is also required. The 97th percentile is the cut point set by the state for early access entrance.

Achievement:
Achievement: All students will be required to take both the Test of Early Reading Ability (TERA-3) and Test of Early Mathematics Ability (TEMA-3) and score in the 97th percentile or higher for consideration.
Performance:
Parents must submit a portfolio that includes up to five of the following (including reflection): performance evidence of the child’s drawing abilities, performance evidence of the child’s writing abilities, performance evidence of the child’s mathematical abilities, short letter from an informed adult (not the parent) documenting the child’s participation in learning activities or lessons such as music, language, sports, reading, etc. In addition, the following documents must be submitted with the portfolio: application form, contact information, copy of birth certificate, information release form, any prior assessment data, proof of residence.

The gifted identification team will review all portfolios in a one-week period during early April. The ID team will make decisions as to whether or not a student will proceed with additional testing based on the portfolio of evidence submitted by April 1.

Readiness, social behavior and motivation:
Readiness, social behavior and motivation: The Gifted Rating Scale - Primary must be completed by someone not related to the child, but who knows them well. A score in the 97th percentile or higher is required for consideration for early access

Support system:

Process

Timelines:
Applications due: first Friday in April
Testing Window: second Friday in April through first Friday in May
Notification window: One week after testing window ends

The overall process will allow the district gifted identification team to develop a large body of evidence with input from multiple stakeholders. Students must score in the 97th percentile or higher on all assessments given in order to be considered for placement. Still, the final decision lies with the gifted identification team.

Parents will be invited to submit an application for consideration, along with a portfolio of student work (described above), by the first Friday in April. The gifted identification team will review all portfolios during the week that follows and invite students who show high aptitude to continue with additional testing. That additional testing, also described above, will take place from the second Friday in April through the first Friday in May. Parents will be notified of final decisions no later than one week after the testing window ends. At this time, schools will also be notified if early access was granted.

Personnel:
ID Specialists and Gifted Facilitator will complete all testing and make all decisions.

Evaluation:
The determination letter will be developed prior to April 2017.

Monitoring:
Once all portfolios are submitted, the identification team will take one week to review them and make decisions as to whether or not the child will move forward with additional testing. Parents will be notified either way by the second Friday in April. Additional testing will take place between the second Friday in April and the first Friday in May. All decisions will be made and parents will be notified via email and/or phone within one week of the end of the testing window.

A rubric will be developed during the 2016-2017 school year to score portfolio pieces. In addition, a Kindergarten checklist will be obtained and given to parents as a way for them to determine readiness.

Dispute Resolution: Will the AU be using the same procedure for disagreements process as in the main Program Plan? Yes

The administrative unit’s program plan is due with the Comprehensive Program Plan or no later than January 1 prior to early access implementation.