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

- Our gifted coaches inform preschool teachers, kindergarten teachers, and principals of early access deadlines
- Preschool and kindergarten teachers inform parents of early access availability and deadlines
- Our district informs local preschool teachers of early access procedures and deadlines
- Our district informs the local gifted advocacy group (SAGE), who shares early access information by email and in meetings
- Early access information, procedures, and application are available on our school district website
- Gifted coaches lead the early access process and coach preschool and kindergarten teachers in the collection of evidence and observations needed

Criteria

Aptitude:
In order to be considered for early access, a child must obtain scores at or above the 97th percentile on a standardized intellectual test (WPPSI or WISC). However, simply achieving a score at or above the 97th percentile is not sufficient to offer early access to the child. The school also collects achievement data (Woodcock-Johnson) and observational data for school readiness (PKBS).

Achievement:
In order to be considered for early access, a child must obtain scores at or above the 97th percentile on a standardized test of achievement (Woodcock-Johnson). However, simply achieving a score at or above the 97th percentile is not sufficient to offer early access to the child. The school also collects intellectual data (WPPSI or WISC) and observational data for school readiness (PKBS).

**Performance:**
In order to be considered for early access, a child's performance must reveal that s/he is ready to whole-grade accelerate. This is assessed using PKBS and the Iowa Acceleration Scale.

**Readiness, social behavior and motivation:**
In order to be considered for early access, a child must not show moderate or high risk associated with social skills or problem behaviors as assessed by the Preschool and Kindergarten Behavior Scales (PKBS).

**Support system:**
The ALP of an early access student lists the details of the support system in place. These usually include frequent monitoring by classroom teacher and gifted coach, frequent communication with parents, coaching for classroom teacher to make sure the needs of the student are understood and met, and social/emotional counseling for the student as needed.

**Process**

**Timelines:**
Our school district follows all of the timelines mandated by CDE:
- application deadline is April 1
- determination is made within 60 days of application submission
- early access ALP written by Sept. 30
- student progress monitoring and parent communication at least every 5 weeks
- disputes must be made within 7 days or by June 10; follow-up testing must be submitted by July 1; dispute decision will be made within 14 days of submission of follow-up testing

**Personnel:**

- The 3 of our gifted coaches that are endorsed as gifted specialists collect and process early access referrals, or coach the other gifted coaches through the process

**Evaluation:**
Determination letters attached.

**Monitoring:**

- Early access students are monitored according to grade-level standards in all content areas
- Face to face conversations with the student assure social and emotional adjustment

**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.