

Guidelines for Enrolling or Counting Early Access Students

Student Types

In addition to the documentation necessary for ensuring that students meet the enrollment, attendance, and scheduling criteria needed for funding, additional documentation may be required, depending on the classification of a student or program in which the student is participating. Following are provisions for the “Advanced Highly Gifted Students”, a type of student enrollment category that requires additional documentation.

*Please note that the audit documentation listed for all “Student Types” is in **addition** to all other required documentation (e.g., enrollment dates, 11-day count window attendance, student schedules).*

Advanced Highly Gifted Students

Pursuant to CSL 22-20-204(2) administrative units may permit early access to kindergarten to a highly gifted advanced four year old and early access to first grade to a highly gifted advanced five year old.

- The administrative unit at the school district, board of cooperative services or the state Charter School Institute must file a written early access addendum to the AU’s Comprehensive Program Plan.
- The initial AU addendum must be filed for approval with the Gifted Education Unit at the Department of Education by January 1 prior to the fiscal year of implementation. (For example: Eligible addendums for fiscal year 2016-2017 must be submitted by January 2016).
 - The early access addendum template and checklist are located on CDE’s Web page: <http://cde.state.co.us/gt/resources.htm>
- The early access student for grades K and 1st must have an ALP on file by September 30 of each year to be verified and counted in the October enrollment.
- **For a four year old to be counted as a kindergartener or a five year old to be counted as a first grader the ALP must show the notation “grade acceleration” on the first or cover page of the ALP. This notation must be visible for both the kindergarten and grade one school years, as applicable to the early access student.**
 - The student must reach the age of four by October 1 for kindergarten.
 - The student must reach the age of five by October 1 for grade one.

Notes:

- The early access provisions benefit only a few highly advanced gifted children. The legislation is not for the majority of age 4 or age 5 gifted students who are served in preschool and kindergarten programs. Gifted education directors and coordinators determine with their superintendent if early access will be permitted in the administrative unit and an early access addendum filed with CDE.
- The AU’s gifted education director has current information about the local advanced learning plan system of support. Examples of ALP’s are located on CDE’s Web page: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/gt/resources.htm>. Administrative Units typically maintain ALPs on Web-based or an internal electronic system which must record the student’s date of entry, the ALP start date and a label of “grade acceleration “on the ALP for grades K and 1st.



Summary

Additional Audit Documentation	See the notes listed above for details. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administrative Unit Program Plan including the early access addendum is current and on file with the Colorado Department of Education.• The ALP is dated on or before September 30.• A clear notation is on the front or cover page of the ALP: “grade acceleration”.
Reference	22-54-103(10)(b)(I)(B), C.R.S. and 22-54-103(10)(a)(IV)(B), C.R.S.