



San Juan BOCES - 64143 | **Submission Date:** 10/15/2016

## Early Access Addendum

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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

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**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

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Each district in San Juan BOCES will notify families and community members about the Early Access process through announcements on their websites and by sending information to local pre-schools. Announcements will also be posted on the SJBOCES website. Each elementary school will also have information available to families whose children are already attending the school, or who inquire about early entrance to kindergarten or first grade. Information will also be shared with SJBOCES school psychologists and early childhood professionals.

The information will include where to pick up packets, and contact information for a district representative who can answer questions or provide information. Packets will contain detailed information about the timeline for early entrance application and decision-making, the criteria for early entrance, and a description of the process. San Juan BOCES will provide professional development to district gifted education directors and coordinators and early childhood staff so that they will understand the process and be able to communicate about it with families, as well as to help them understand the unique needs of children who will be identified through the process. Attention will be given to the characteristics of gifted learners and teaching strategies which will best benefit them.

No fees are charged for any student applying for early entrance.

## Criteria

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**Aptitude:**

The Weschler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSI) will be administered by a San Juan BOCES psychologist. A score in the 97th percentile or above will be required for early entrance.



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**Achievement:**

The Test of Early Mathematics Ability - third edition (TEMA 3), the Test of Early Written Language - third edition (TEWL3), and the Test of Early Reading Ability - fourth edition (TERA 4) will be administered by the SJBoces Early Access Determination Team. Scores in the 97th percentile or above will be required for early entrance.

**Performance:**

Teaching Strategies GOLD data (where available), observational data from the child's preschool or kindergarten class, and work samples will be reviewed by the Early Access Determination Team. The team would be looking for students who perform two grade-levels ahead of their age/grade peers.

**Readiness, social behavior and motivation:**

Teaching Strategies GOLD data, if available, would show the student is exceeding expectations in cognitive, language and social-emotional readiness. Observational data would show similar results. Teacher and parent/family responses on the Kingore Observation Inventory (KOI) would show the student excelling in 3-4 areas, or the Scales for Identification of Gifted Students (SIGS) would show scores of the 95th percentile or above in 3-4 areas on either the Home or School Rating Scale.

**Support system:**

The support system for a child identified for early entrance will include the parents/ family, the classroom teacher, the school gifted education liaison, the district gifted coordinator, the school counselor and the building administrator, and other district personnel as necessary, as well as any SJBoces personnel involved with the child during the school day. The child's Advanced Learning Plan will be developed with this team, and will include goals in the academic, affective and developmental areas, and a transition goal, all of which will be monitored by the team, who will work collaboratively to support the student's transition into and between grades as well as to identify strengths, needs and gaps leading to further goal development.

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## Process

**Timelines:**

Applications and information packets will be available to parents/ families every year by February 10th, and will be due by April 1st of the school year prior to desired early entrance. Applications may be accepted after April 1st in unusual circumstances, such as a family moving into the SJBoces region after April 1st but prior to the beginning of the school year.

Determinations will be made within 60 days of the submission of the student portfolio and application materials. A determination letter will be sent to families by June 1st. All students considered shall be age 4 by October 1st of the application year for kindergarten and age 5 by October 1st for first grade.

ALPs shall be developed no later than September 30th for early entrance students.

**Personnel:**

District gifted education coordinators/directors will collect referral portfolios and application materials. Testing will be done by SJBoces school psychologists (WPPSI) and by SJBoces Early Access Team personnel (TEMA, TERA). The body of evidence will be collected and reviewed by the SJBoces EART (Early Access Review Team) which will consist of a school psychologist, the gifted coordinator, and an early childhood educator. This team will make the determination in collaboration with the child's parents or other family members responsible for the child. Other helpful team members may include early childhood education professionals employed by the district and district gifted education professionals trained in the early access process, as well as receiving



teacher, counselor and building administrator, school psychologist and sending preschool or kindergarten teacher.

**Evaluation:**

Implementation of the Early Access process will begin with the submission of the plan in January, 2020. Materials will be provided to districts by Feb. 10th, 2020 to be made available as described in the communication section. Communication with all district personnel will be accomplished between February and May, 2020. Application portfolios will be accepted by April 1, 2020 for the 2020 - 2021 school year. The San Juan BOCES Early Access Review Team will be designated within SJBOCES during Jan - Feb 2020 upon acceptance of this plan by CDE.

Parents or responsible family members are required to complete all parts of the application and accompanying portfolio of the child's work. Portfolio and application will include the following:

- Application form
- Copy of child's birth certificate
- Kingore Observation Inventory (KOI) or Scales for Identification of Gifted Students (SIGS) form completed by child's teacher
- KOI or SIGS form completed by parents/ family
- Work samples that show evidence of readiness for early entrance, such as:
  - Knowledge of number sense
  - Reading ability
  - Knowledge of beginning alphabet sounds
  - Knowledge of colors and shapes
  - Writing samples
  - Art samples
  - Student interests

And anything else the family sees as important or relevant to the determination.

Upon receipt of the portfolio, the Early Access Review Team (EART) will review the materials to decide whether further assessment is warranted. The team will communicate with the family regarding their decision. If the portfolio shows readiness for early entrance, the EART will gather a body of evidence using the assessments listed in the Criteria section. All materials submitted and gathered in this process will be reviewed by the team, and a determination will be made regarding early access. The team will use consensus to arrive at the determination, and if consensus cannot be reached, the team will ask for assistance from the SJBOCES Executive Director. Families will be notified in writing by June 1st (or 60 days from the application date if extenuating circumstances apply).

The determination letter will be shared with the family and the school staff. The ALP for an early access student will be completed by Sept. 30th or the end of the first month of school, whichever comes first. Initial ALP for gifted student without early access should be completed as early as possible in the fall.

If the student is identified as gifted, regardless of whether early access is granted, an ALP will be written in collaboration with the student, family, gifted education personnel, and the classroom teacher(s) if the student is in school. If not, the EART will notify the school personnel about the gifted determination when the student enters school.

**Monitoring:**

Students who are granted early access will have their ALP goals and progress monitored every 5 weeks by the school RtI team including the teacher and building gifted personnel. Reports will be shared with students' families.



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**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.**