



ADVANCED PLACEMENT TO FIRST GRADE
APPLICATION PACKET
(CONFIDENTIAL)

SCORES
___ ILA
___ MATH

The application forms must be completed in full for a child to be considered for an advanced placement into first grade evaluation. Each child for whom you are completing an application must not be age eligible for first grade at the beginning of the school year.

There are two options for submitting the forms once they have been completed:

- 1. Save them as a document on your computer and return them as an email attachment to earlychildhood@hcps.org.
2. Save them as a document on your computer, print and mail them directly to: Executive Director of Elementary Education, Harford County Public Schools A.A. Roberty Building, 102 South Hickory Avenue, Bel Air, MD 21014

Once the assessment is completed, you will be notified, in writing, from the Office of Early Childhood about the score and the final decision of acceptance. Since this is the appeal process, all decisions are final. There are absolutely no retests.

Thank you for your cooperation. A denial for advanced placement in first grade will mean that your child should be registered for kindergarten. Assessments will be scored as soon as possible.

*Applications will be available on the first Friday in May.

*Last day to accept applications for Advanced Placement into First Grade is the first Friday in June.

Steps to be Completed

Parent Use:

Name of Child for Whom Application is Being Made _____

Packet Information is Complete:

- ___ Parent Information Profile
___ Child's birth certificate
___ Letter of Consideration (from parent)
___ Reference letter(s)
___ Signed Understanding of Assessment Process

Date Returned _____ Verified by (Initials) _____

**Advanced Placement for First Grade
PARENT INFORMATION PROFILE**

*This profile must be completed in full by a parent or guardian before the child will be considered for advanced placement for first grade. Remember to attach a letter of recommendation from the child's physician, nursery schoolteacher, or other person qualified to judge his or her development and capabilities. If the child attended preschool or prekindergarten, a letter of recommendation is required from your child's teacher. Send this form with a cover letter and the letter of recommendation to the Executive Director of Elementary Education, Harford County Public Schools, 102 S. Hickory Avenue, Bel Air, Maryland 21014, **by the first Friday in June.***

NOTE: No HCPS Employee can provide a letter of recommendation for Advanced Placement for First Grade. This will jeopardize the application and result in an automatic denial.

Child's Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Name of Parent/Guardian Completing This Form _____

Address _____ Phone: _____
Cell: _____

City State and Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

School _____ Date _____

Directions: Please answer each question below. If additional space is needed, write on the back of this form. If assistance is needed with this form, notify the school secretary.

1. Why do you want your child considered for advanced placement for first grade?
2. Is your child always asking questions? What types of questions does your child ask?
3. Does your child dislike being given directions and rules for a task? Does your child want to be creative?
4. What responsibilities does your child have at home? What do you do when your child does not follow through?
5. How does your child respond when (s)he tries but can't do something?

6. Does your child have a sense of humor?

7. Is your child sensitive to criticism?

8. What types of reading activities is your child engaged in at home?

9. What does your child know about numbers, shapes, and puzzles?

10. About how long will your child persist with a play activity? Academic activity? Read a book?

11. Can your child button, snap and zipper to dress him- or herself?

12. What group experiences has your child had, for example, day care, Head Start or nursery school? How often did your child attend?

13. Does your child prefer to work with others or independently, and what types of activities?

14. Could there be a negative impact for your child due to their developmental immaturity in the classroom?

UNDERSTANDING THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS For Advanced Placement to First Grade

Having an extremely precocious child can be a very rewarding experience. Children who have the ability to read books and parts of the newspaper and to perform mathematical problems at a young age are indeed a wonder to behold. Entrance into formal education will enable the child to capture and focus the child's ability to continue the learning process.

The assessment that is given to your child for advanced placement into first grade is a **confidential**, standardized test designed to measure the skills that the child has for performance in first grade. The assessment is focused on two areas, language arts and mathematics. A score of **90% on each section** is the expected score to be eligible for advanced placement. Parents should be aware that the test is very difficult.

The assessor will conduct the two-part test with the child **without the parent present**. Precocious children are social and very often easily adaptable to new situations. The test consists of measuring standards and indicators, as set by the Maryland State Department of Education, which identifies the predictability of success in first grade. The test can be approximately two hours in length.

The assessor will quickly develop a relationship with the child. Children will be expected to respond from their own knowledge base and not be prompted for responses. Prior to the assessment, parents can assist in assuring the child that no answer they give is wrong and should be comfortable with talking to the assessor.

The assessor will not continue with the test if the child becomes frustrated or begins to be distracted which is an indication that the child is not ready for first grade. If the child continues to respond incorrectly, the assessor will also discontinue the process. It is the assessor's responsibility to keep the child on track and yet not allow the child to become frustrated or upset. The assessor will **not** give you an indication of how the child scored. Scoring of the test will be completed within the next 15 days.

The child that is accepted for advanced placement to first grade as a result of the assessment will begin school on a probationary basis for the first thirty (30) school days. During that period, if the child is experiencing academic or emotional difficulties, a conference will be arranged with the child's parents or guardians to reconsider his or her advanced placement. If the child is denied acceptance at the end of the probationary period, the child will automatically be placed in kindergarten.

By signing below, you understand this is the appeal process for your child. Children not scoring 90% on the assessment will not be retested. The decision letter with scores is the final step.

By entering my name in this box, I acknowledge that the information above is true and accurate, and that this electronic signature has the same meaning as my handwritten signature.

Parent Signature

Date

**INFORMATION REGARDING TESTING for
EARLY ENTRANCE TO KINDERGARTEN
AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT TO FIRST GRADE**

Children develop at different levels.

On MSDE website you will find the standards for grades PK through grade 12. Children will be tested on the curriculum standards set by MSDE. You must keep in mind that these are the minimum expectations set by MSDE. Since you are applying for early entrance/advanced placement, your child is required to achieve a 90% score.

By signing below, you understand this process for your child. Children not scoring 90% on the assessment will not be retested. The decision letter with scores is the final step.

By entering my name in this box, I acknowledge that the information above is true and accurate, and that this electronic signature has the same meaning as my handwritten signature.

Parent Signature

Date

Things to Consider

- ⇒ Every child in kindergarten receives an appropriately challenging education that fosters his or her identified capabilities. Your child's special abilities may be appropriately met in kindergarten.
- ⇒ Successful candidates of early entrance are often quick learners, independent and motivated, developmentally advanced, and socially mature compared to same age peers.
- ⇒ Young children are emotionally vulnerable and may become stressed or anxious when adult expectations for their performance exceeds their developmental capabilities. Children learn best when they are provided challenges that are appropriately matched to their ability and readiness level.
- ⇒ Young children learn best through structured and self-directed play. The quality and quantity of the time spent playing is later demonstrated in their ability to think creatively, make decisions, and cope with stressful situations.
- ⇒ Entering school early is a decision that will have long-term effects on your child. The potential social, emotional, and cognitive impact on your child as he/she progresses through elementary, middle, high school, and beyond is not foreseeable.
- ⇒ How will your family respond when your child's new peer group reaches adolescence and is old enough to date, drive, and assume other adult prerogatives?
- ⇒ Although a capable young child needs to be challenged, those challenges need to be tailored to his or her stage of social, emotional and physical development as well as to his or her intellectual strengths.
- ⇒ Results from longitudinal studies indicate that carefully selected, advanced young learners tend to do very well academically and socially when provided advanced placement.

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01/2020

Harford County Public Schools
102 S. Hickory Avenue
Bel Air, Maryland 21014
410-838-7300



Should You Consider



First Grade Advanced Placement For Your Child?

By Authority of the Superintendent
Harford County Public Schools

Should You Consider... First Grade Advanced Placement for Your Child?

Although rare, exceptions to the age of entrance policy are granted by the Harford County Public School system when it is clearly evident the precocious five-year-old child will be served more effectively in the first grade rather than in kindergarten. A child with exceptional abilities may be **considered** for advanced placement to the first grade upon the request of a parent/guardian. Some characteristics of exceptional ability in young children are as follows:

- Advanced, sophisticated vocabulary
- Early reading skills (not memorization)
- Advanced memory
- Long attention span, able to persevere on tasks that interest them
- Reasoning skills—early understanding of cause and effect, ability to see connections between ideas and events

Procedure for advanced placement in the first grade

- For a child to be eligible for advanced placement to first grade, the child must turn **6-years-old by October 15** and be a resident of Harford County.
- The application process begins the first Friday of May and ends the first Friday in June. Assessments will be administered in June and July of the current school year.
- Obtain an Advanced Placement into First Grade packet from the attendance area school and complete a Parent Information Profile and other forms.
- Return the packet to the **Executive Director of Elementary Education, 102 S. Hickory Ave., Bel Air, Maryland 21014.**
- For consideration, all information must be complete with parent signatures.

Note: Employees of HCPS employee cannot provide a letter of recommendation for First Grade Advanced Placement. This will jeopardize the application and result in an automatic denial.

- After reviewing the information provided, the Executive Director will make a decision to honor or decline your request and notify you. If your request is honored, the information will be kept on file until the child completes the assessment part of the application packet.
- If you wish to pursue advanced placement for your child, (s)he will be given a reading and language arts assessment as well as a mathematics assessment. A specialist will contact the parent/guardian to schedule the assessment.
- For advanced placement consideration, your child must score at least 90% on **both** parts of the assessment. Assessments are administered by the specialist **without parent or guardian presence** and lasts approximately 2 hours. A child may be assessed only **one** time for advanced placement determination.
- If advanced placement is recommended, the principal or designee of the attendance school will schedule a conference with the parent/guardian to discuss the request. Be prepared to talk about your child's previous group experiences and special strengths and needs as you have described them on the Parent Information Profile.
- Placement will be for a probationary period of **30** school days pending the child's satisfactory social-emotional adjustment as determined by the classroom teacher.
- Upon completion of the probationary period, a final letter will be sent to the parent/guardian. If acceptance into first grade is recommended, all relevant school policies and procedures will apply, including daily school attendance. However, if the child is denied advanced placement into first grade, the child will be placed in kindergarten.

REMEMBER...the intent of this procedure is to make the first grade program available to younger students who are capable of working in a classroom setting with children a year older. The standards for advanced placement in first grade are demanding to ensure that children are not frustrated by the advanced placement.

Before You Make An Early Entrance Decision, You May Want To Read:

- Elkind, D. (1987). *Miseducation: Preschoolers At Risk*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.
- Elkind, D. (1988). Acceleration. *Young Children*, 43(4), 2.
- Colangelo, N., Assouline, S.G., & Gross, M. U.M. (2004). *A nation deceived: How schools hold back America's students*. Iowa City, IA: Belin-Blank Center. (Volumes 1 and 2).
- National Association for the Education of Young Children, <http://www.naeyc.org/>
- National Association for Gifted Children www.nagc.org
- Maryland State Department of Education, <http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/>

IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE

INFORMATION... contact the principal of your child's school or Harford County Public Schools' Office of Early Childhood Programs, 410-588-5252

The Harford County Public School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, or disability in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs. Inquiries related to the policies of the Board of Education of Harford County should be directed to the Manager of Communications, 410-588-5203.