

## EARLY ACCESS PROVISION

Changes in Colorado law, resulting from House Bill 1021 (2008), allow school districts the choice of offering the opportunity to identify and serve highly advanced gifted four-or-five- year old children who require comprehensive academic acceleration through Early Access to either Kindergarten or First Grade. It is the intent of the law that Early Access is not intended for all children who are gifted, but rather that there are some children for whom Early Access is an appropriate educational decision. Children for whom Early Access is being requested must either be four years of age by the state date for Kindergarten-October 1) or five years of age by the state date for first grade (October 1).

A 4 or 5 year old child who may benefit from EA is considered a "highly advanced gifted child". Highly gifted is defined in this bill as a child who is academically gifted, socially and emotionally mature, and scores at the 97th percentile or higher on tests of cognitive abilities and achievement. This child is in the top 2% of the gifted peer group, motivated to learn, ready for advanced placement, and has exhausted the resources of quality preschool programs or home schooling.

In the case of gifted education, Ute Pass BOCES acts as the Administrative Unit (AU) for our three member districts. ( Cripple Creek-Victor, Manitou Springs, and Woodland Park) As the AU, Ute Pass BOCES is responsible for helping districts and families navigate the EA procedures within an administrative role, leaving decision making to the district teams.

### PROCESS

1. Complete an Application at <https://forms.gle/e3cUVfpwaq1pB3xB9>  
The district will accept applications February 1 – September 1
2. Portfolio provided to district by parents
  - a. Letter stating reasons for Early Access
  - b. Birth Certificate
  - c. Top 2% performance (K Readiness, Kingore, TS Gold, SIGS)
  - d. Examples in the top 2 %
    - i. Reading Ability
    - ii. Number Sense, higher level math skills
    - iii. Problem solving ability
    - iv. Writing ability
    - v. Creativity
  - e. Statements of support from current preschool teacher
  - f. Evidence of social behavior/motivation above same aged peers
3. District Team reviews portfolio and refers on for further evaluation  
*It is the sole discretion of the team to determine if the portfolio meets criteria and refer on for further evaluation*
4. Intellectual Ability Assessment performed (Stanford Binet, Kaufman ABC, WPPSI)  
*If above the 97th percentile....*
5. Achievement Assessments performed (TEMA, TERA, other achievement tests)  
*If above the 97th percentile....*

#### **Gifted Determination made for Early Access Provision**

6. Determination Letter given by GT Teacher with principal notification (If child does not qualify, options for preschool enrichment provided to parent/preschool)
7. Advanced Learning Plan developed with GT / Kindergarten Teacher and parents by Sept 30<sup>th</sup>
8. Progress monitored every 5 weeks (GT / K Teacher)