

**Q. Why are the standards for acceptance so demanding?**

Research has shown that most children do better when they enter school with their age group. Children who enter early are placed with students who may be a year or older who have had the advantage of additional life experience and development.

**Q. Suppose I change my mind after my child has been accepted?**

YOU, as the child's parent, make the final decision to enter your child if Early Entrance acceptance criteria have been met



**Early Admittance  
Information  
for  
Kindergarten and Grade I**



For more information, please contact:

**Cumberland School Department  
Office of the Assistant  
Superintendent  
2602 Mendon Road  
Cumberland, RI 02864  
401-658-1600, ext. 303**

**Frequently Asked Questions  
2018-2019**

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## Q. Who is this program designed for?

The Early Admittance to kindergarten and first grade is designed for those students who demonstrate strength in academic, social emotional and cognitive ability and aptitude of success in kindergarten or first grade if admitted .

## Q. How do I prepare my child for the day of evaluation?

Hopefully, you have given serious and realistic consideration to the criteria for acceptance before applying for early admittance. Parental attempts to “coach” the child usually only intensify the pressure and anxiety of the situation. Most of the tasks used in the evaluation are developmental in nature and resemble activities typical of kindergarten or first grade. Do not refer to the session as a test or imply that the child will either pass or fail. You may want to tell your child that he/she will be asked to do some work and other fun things that will show how much they have learned so far. Try to emphasize that they should do their best and enjoy themselves .

## Q. What happens the day of the evaluation?

Evaluators will spend time with each child individually. The School Readiness Assessments will include pre-academic evaluations. Adaptive behavior measures will be completed by parent(s)/guardian(s) while waiting. If the child performs at the 90th percentile on the School Readiness Assessment families will be notified and an individual cognitive assessment will be administered during another evaluation session. Composite score must be in the 80th percentile for a child to be accepted for early entrance to kindergarten.

## Q. How will I know whether or not my child has met the criteria?

You will be notified by letter that will include whether or not your child has met the criteria for Early Entrance to kindergarten or first grade. Included in this letter will be a contact number for questions. Per Cumberland School Committee Policy– J-1 Early Entry to Kindergarten and First Grade, the decision for early admittance to kindergarten or first grade cannot be appealed.



## Q. How will my child feel if he/she is not among the children who met the criteria for acceptance?

A child’s reaction usually depends on how the situation has been presented and how families react to whether the child met the criteria for acceptance. Families who react strongly to the results may send the message to the child that he/she has failed or done something wrong. The child will maintain self-esteem if parents present the information positively and stress how much better prepared the child will be after another year in pre-school or kindergarten.

## Q. What are some reasons children do not meet the criteria?

The basic reason is that most children are developing normally or at a rate that is only slightly above average. Occasionally, evaluation results indicate that a child may be delayed in some area of development included in the assessment.

