



Early Access

Identification Process





What is Early Access?

12.08(1) & 12.08(1)(c)

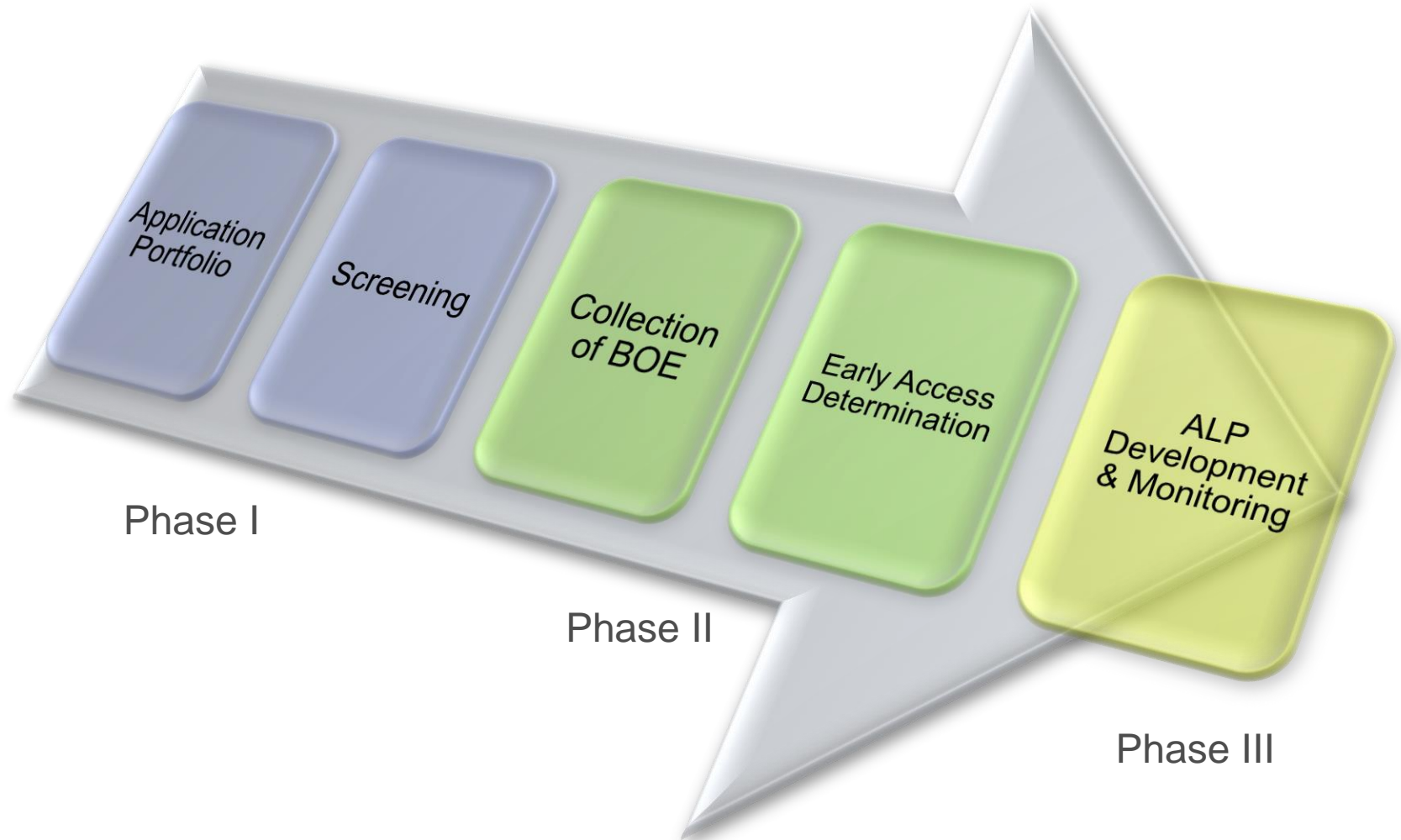
Early Access means early entrance to kindergarten or first grade for **highly advanced gifted** children who meet statewide criteria and for whom comprehensive acceleration is deemed necessary by the school team.

- Four years of age by October 1 may qualify for Kindergarten
- Five years of age by October 1 may qualify for 1st Grade

Early access is **not** to be an acceleration pattern recommended for the majority of age 4 or age 5 gifted children.



Early Access Process





Phase I: Application Portfolio

Deadline no later than April 1st

- Cover page with applicant contact information
- Norm-referenced behavior inventory (SIGS, GES, GRS) completed by parent and child's current teacher*
- Performance evidence
 - Work samples
 - Data from the child's current teacher
 - Indicators of grade level readiness
 - Available assessment data (private testing???)



**If the child is not in school, another adult who knows the child from other early childhood experiences may complete the screening tool.*



Phase I: Screening

GT Coordinator (or Team) screens Portfolios to make an initial decision as to whether early access assessment should continue.

- School may interview parent and student as part of screening.

Parents are informed of decision in writing.

If a child is moved forward in the Early Access process, school obtains permission to test and schedules assessments.

- If a fee is collected, the fee is paid following this initial screening.



Phase II: Body of Evidence

School conducts testing in the following areas:

- Achievement (Math, Reading, Writing)
- Aptitude (Cognitive – age appropriate tool)
- Performance (SIGS, GES, GRS)
- Readiness, Social Behavior and Motivation



Resource: [Commonly Used Assessments for Early Access](#)



Phase II: Review Team Meeting

Consensus process by a determination team



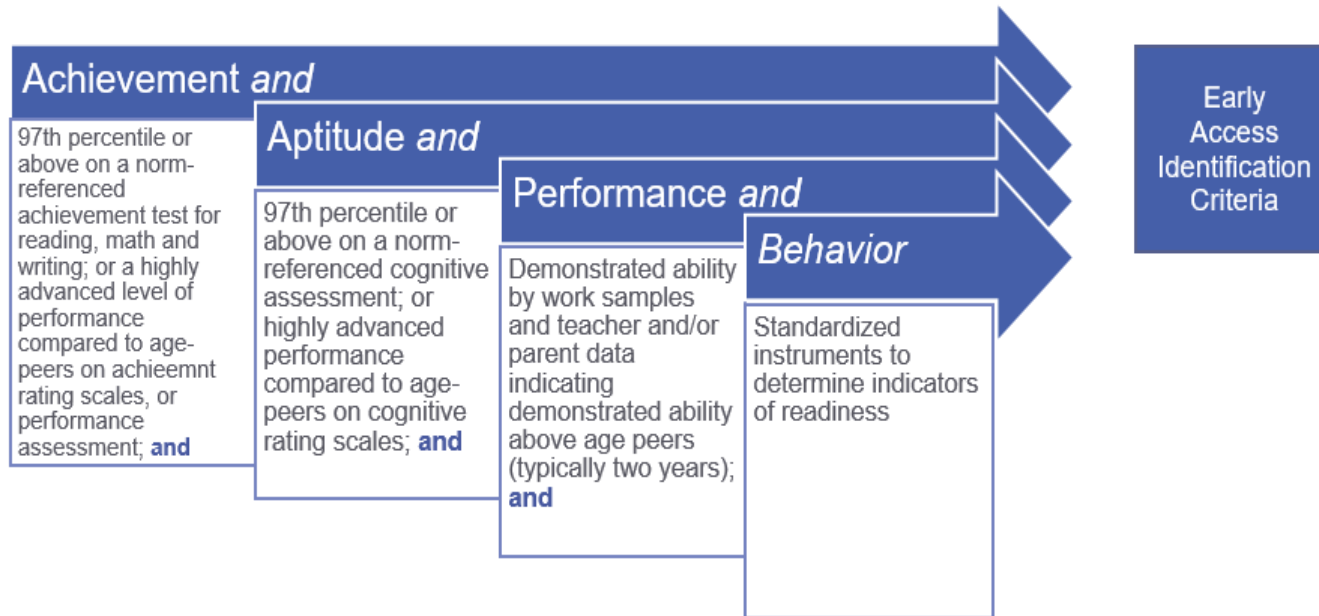
- School Leader
- Gifted Coordinator (at least one person trained in gifted identification)
- Teacher of early childhood
- Others: School Psychologist, ELD teacher, Special Education teacher, Preschool teacher

Analysis of the BOE results in a student profile of strengths, needs and interests of the child against the criteria

Review Team Form: <https://resources.csi.state.co.us/gifted-education-2/>



Criteria for Identification



97th Percentile Math and Reading and Writing

AND

97th Percentile Cognitive

AND

97th Percentile Behavior Scale and Advanced Work Samples

AND

School Readiness



Student Profile

Alec was identified as a 4 year old in **general intellectual ability** with the following qualifying body of evidence:

- TEMA: 97th PR
- TERA: 99th PR
- TEWA: 97th PR
- WPPSI: FSIQ 99th PR
- SIGS: Language Arts 97th PR, Creativity 99th PR
- DRPDK: ATL-Reg Beg-M, SEL Beg-L, LL Int-E

Current Student Interests: Alec's parents report that he is an avid reader and loves learning about dinosaurs. He enjoys puzzles and legos. He has a very advanced sense of humor and tells lots of jokes.



Phase II: Determination Letter

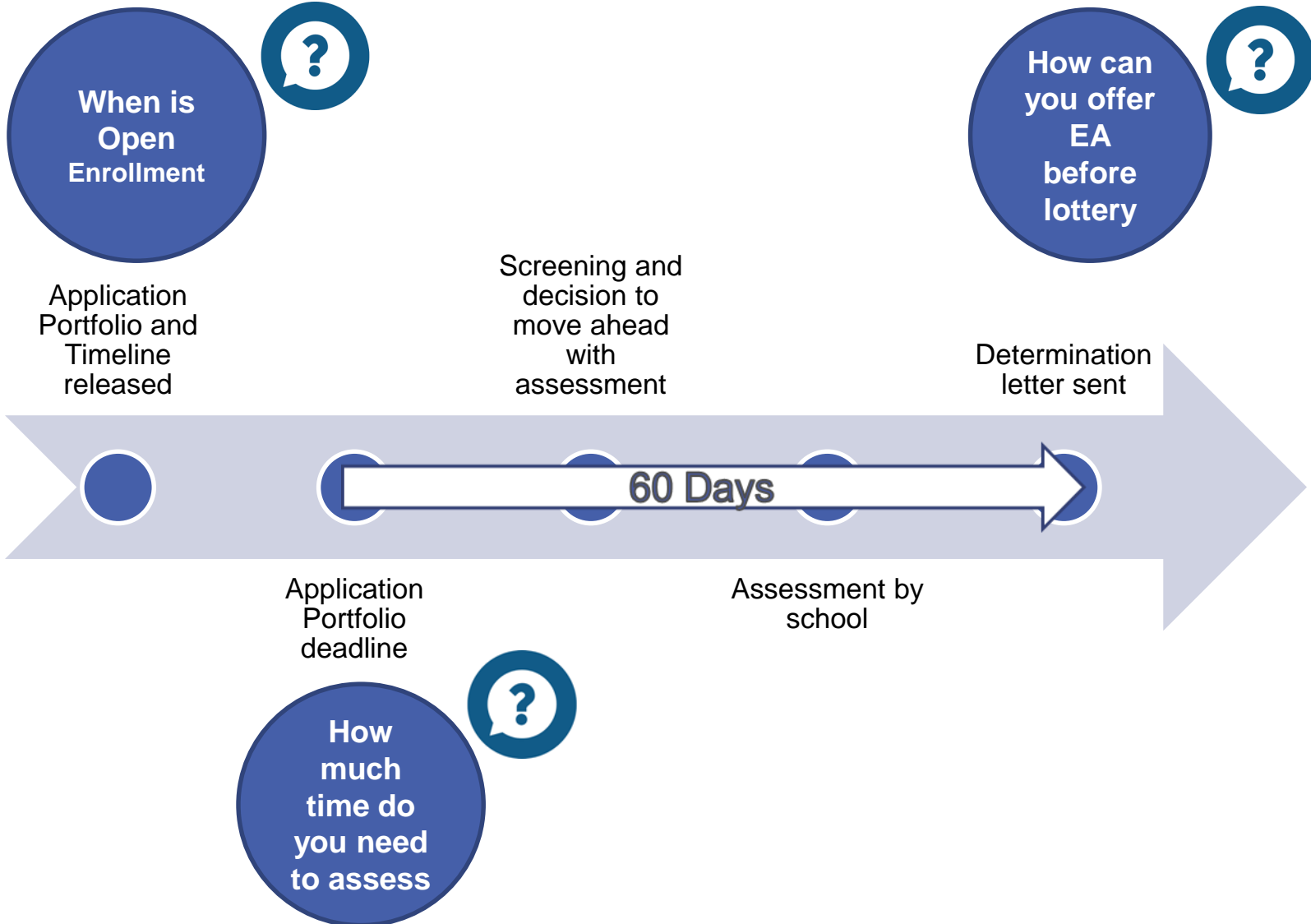
Written letter of determination provided to parents and teachers

- Must be sent no later than **60 days** after application deadline
- Parents may accept or decline the offer of early access.
- If the determination team does not find that the child meets the criteria for early access, the team can refer the student for gifted identification at the preschool level.
- Parents must be informed of your school's grievance policy, if they disagree with the determination.





Timeline 12.08(2)(e)(i)



Phase III: ALP Development & Monitoring



- An advanced learning plan (ALP) must be developed no later than the end of the first month after the start of school or **September 30th**, whichever is earlier.
- ALP states “**Grade Acceleration**”.
- ALP shall include academic and transition goals.

- The student’s teacher shall monitor student performance at least **every five weeks** during the student’s first year of early access. 12.08(2)(e)(iv)
 - The monitoring process shall be based on the ALP and performance reports **shared with the parents** and child.





Funding for Early Access^{12.08(2)(c)}

Early Access Kindergarten may receive part time funding

Early Access first grade may receive full time funding

Eligibility/Audit Evidence

Student must have proper gifted code in SIS for state reporting

Advanced Learning Plan (ALP) includes the following:

- Date of ALP created no later than 30 days after the start date of school or September 30th
- Date of identification
- The phrases “early access” and “grade acceleration” must be included



Next Steps

- ▷ Determine EA Timeline
- ▷ Develop communication avenues
 - Website/newsletter/brochure
 - Develop application
 - Develop form letter for determination
- ▷ Ensure access to appropriate assessments
- ▷ Select team members
- ▷ Check out sample EA Resources
<https://resources.csi.state.co.us/gifted-education-2/>

Complete Early Access Plan Form by November 9th
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EATimeline>



Additional Resources

- ▷ [CDE Early Access Webpage](#)
- ▷ [CDE Early Access Guidebook](#)
- ▷ [CDE Guidelines for Early Access October Count](#)



Thanks!

Any questions?

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