

## JEFFCO PRESCHOOL RETENTION INFORMATION

*It is not about the "Ready Child" -*

*The School, the Classroom, and the Teacher have to be "Ready" for any child  
who walks through the door*

### Talking Points:

- All children who are 5 on or before October 1<sup>st</sup> are kindergarten eligible (e.g. a student turning 5 before October 1, 2018, is kindergarten-eligible for the 2018-2019 school year).
- The District's Board Promotion and Retention Policy and Procedures will be followed (policies IKE and IKE-R).
- District Administration makes the final decision regarding retention. All requests are taken very seriously, reviewed individually, and a great deal of thought goes into each decision.
- Retention is a General Education process. For IDEA-eligible students, the retention decision will be made taking into account the student's IEP and input from the student's parents and other members of the IEP team. However, the IEP team does not make the decision.
- Jeffco Preschool curriculum & programming is intended for 3 & 4 year olds.
- The preschool schedule is typically 2.5 hours / 4 days a week, whereas kindergarten is at least 3 hours / 5 days a week.
- Priority of preschool openings will be given to students who are 3 & 4 years old

### Information that will be considered:

- Birthdate / maturity / physical size in comparison to peers
- Number of years the child has attended preschool / hours attended
- Attendance rate / absences
- IEP / Progress towards IEP goals
- Health Plan / illnesses
- Behavior Plan
- Parent Input
- Preschool staff input
- Observation of the student
- My Teaching Strategies Gold benchmark data / any additional available data
- Age and number of age appropriate peers (2 year 10 months – 5 year olds)

### Guiding Questions from CDE:

- Is input being gathered from all pertinent parties including the parents?
- Has the research been considered?
- What data is there to measure current classroom functioning (Academic/Social/Emotional)?
- What does the data reflect in terms of the student's performance compared to age / grade level expectations?

- What supports will be in place in Kindergarten to support the child?  
Will the child benefit from the same academic content, delivered in the same way as the year before?  
If so, how?
- How will retention impact the mental, social, physical, and emotional development of the child?
- Will the child benefit from peers who may be one to two years younger in maturity / size?
- Will one more year of preschool close the achievement gap (if applicable)?
- How will one more year of preschool affect the child later in schooling?
- Will a child receive a full day in kindergarten versus a half day in preschool?

**Process for considering a preschool retention request:**

- Parent submits a written request explaining the reasons why their child should attend another year of preschool rather than moving on to kindergarten. Submit requests to Virginia Lindemann ( [Virginia.Lindemann@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:Virginia.Lindemann@jeffco.k12.co.us)), Assistant Director of Early Childhood.
- The window for submitting requests in January – March of the school year preceding the year during which the student is eligible for kindergarten enrollment. For the 2018-2019 school year, all written requests must be submitted in writing no later than March 31st, 2018.
- School team submits all data about attendance, school performance and specific needs.
- The Assistant Director will schedule an Early Learning Team meeting to review the request and data submitted. The decision will be made by the Directors/Assistant Directors, of Early Learning in consultation with Special Education administrators if the student is IDEA-eligible.
- The Early Learning Office will notify the family of the decision via mail and a phone call within 3 weeks of the written request.
- If preschool enrollment is approved, the preschool registration packet and registration fee are due within 3 days of receiving approval.

Note: In January 2018, parents of student who are eligible to enroll in kindergarten during the 2018-2019 school year will be asked to complete a kindergarten enrollment form. If they elect to pursue retention in preschool, the process described above will be followed. Parents are encouraged to register for kindergarten and participate in the District’s choice enrollment process while the retention decision is underway.

**Links to information on School Readiness / Retention:**

- Jeffco School Board of Education – District Policies IKE and IKE-R, available at:
  - <http://www.boarddocs.com/co/jeffco/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=9FKUF66D2E19>
- Colorado Department of Education
  - <http://www.cde.state.co.us/early>
- National Association for the Education of Young Children
  - <http://www.naeyc.org/files/naeyc/file/positions/Readiness.pdf>
  - <http://www.naeyc.org/files/naeyc/file/positions/PSREADY98.PDF>
- National Association of School Psychologists
  - <https://www.nasponline.org/search/search-results?keywords=retention>