Kindergarten Acceleration Testing

Frisco ISD
Important Information

• Testing is offered twice a year; in the fall, for students who moved in over the summer, and again in early summer for students who enrolled during Kindergarten Round Up (registration; mid-April).

• A Kindergarten Acceleration information sheet will be available at Kindergarten Round Up, or may be obtained from the school counselor in mid-April.

• Parents may contact the school counselor for an application to complete and submit by the district deadline.

• Application submission deadlines and testing dates are posted on the Frisco ISD website.
Eligibility for Testing

• The student must reside within the Frisco ISD boundary (proof of residency required).

• The student must be enrolled in a Frisco ISD school (proof of enrollment required).

• The student must turn 6 years old by December 31st of the kindergarten eligible year (birth certificate required – on file at the school).
Is testing right for my child?

- Many parents worry their child will be bored in kindergarten. “My child already knows how to read and can add and subtract numbers…”

- Frisco ISD goes beyond the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). Students in kindergarten will be challenged in a variety of ways.

- Gifted and Talented testing will also take place mid-year in kindergarten.
Social/Emotional Readiness

Kindergarten Acceleration testing goes beyond academic performance.

- It is important that your child be socially and emotionally ready for first grade, as well as academically prepared. Your child will need to be able to complete testing in a group setting in order to successfully complete Phase 1 standards. Testing will not be repeated due to the validity of the test.
Frisco ISD Websites

Frisco ISD Curriculum & Instruction (Kindergarten Acceleration)


Frisco ISD Gifted and Talented

http://www.friscoisd.org/ly/Departments/CurriculumInstruction/giftedTalented.htm

The campus receptionist can direct you to the GT teacher for more information about the Frisco ISD GT program.
Texas Education Agency

Other Helpful websites:

Texas State Curriculum: The Kindergarten TEKS
http://www.tea.state.tx.us/index2.aspx?id=6148

Overview of Learning Standards by Grade
http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/curriculum/LearningStandards.pdf

Note About Reading in Texas:
The Governor’s Reading Initiative requires that students experience reading at their current instructional level, regardless of grade.
Test Preparation

- Kindergarten Acceleration means your child will “test out of” the full year of kindergarten curriculum and instruction.

- In other words, the child has already acquired a great deal of knowledge and academic skills and can demonstrate that through testing.

- There are no study materials available.
Testing Sites

• **In early summer**, acceleration testing will take place at two central locations; one campus on the west side, and one on the east side of the district. *The school counselor will contact parents of students with a completed application on file, in late May/early June with test site information.*

• **In the fall**, testing will take place at the student’s home campus. Testing at this time of year is for students who have moved to Frisco over the summer. *The school counselor will communicate with parents about testing and sharing the results of testing.*
Testing – Early Summer

East Campuses

Anderson
Ashley
Borchardt
Christie
Comstock
Curtsinger
Elliott

Gunstream
Isbell
McSpedden
Mooneyham
Ogle
Riddle
Scott

Sem
Shawnee Tr
Smith
Sonntag
Tadlock
Taylor
Testing – Early Summer

West Campuses

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Testing: Phase I – Early Summer

Bring your child for testing at 8:15 a.m. for the PHASE I test (see counselor for date/location).

Return to the school at 10:15 a.m. Parents will wait in the library and will be required to sign their child out before leaving.

Parents will receive a call about the results by late afternoon. Children whose score meets the passing standard for Phase I will be asked to come back the next day.
Testing: Phase I – Early Summer

What to bring on the day of testing:

- A well fed and rested child
- Water bottle
- Light jacket
- Small snack – one item; no sugar
Only those students meeting the passing standard for Phase I will be invited back for Phase II.

Bring your child at 8:15 a.m. for Phase II testing the following day.

Return at 10:00 a.m. Parents will wait in the library and will be required to sign their child out before leaving.
Testing: Phase II – Early Summer

You will receive a call about the results by late afternoon. If your child’s scores meet the passing standards for Phase II, your child will advance to first grade in the fall.

The counselor will mail home a copy of the PHASE I and/or PHASE II results. Appeals of testing results are not accepted.
What tests will my child take?

• Phase I
  ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills) – standardized, norm referenced, group administered test

• Subtests in Vocabulary, Language and Math Skills

• Test questions are administered orally and test responses are pictorial (not word answers)

• Core Total (combination of three subtests; vocabulary, language, and mathematics) determines passing standard
ITBS Sample

- Test administration consists of two parts; the test question read aloud by the teacher and the pictorial responses in the booklet. The student is instructed to select the pictorial response to answer the question. The following is a question similar to the ITBS:

Teacher: “Move your marker under the next row”. “There are three pictures of a bird and clouds. The bird is flying below the clouds. Fill in the circle under the picture that shows the bird flying below the clouds.”

- Standardized tests must all be administered with strict adherence to the script and teachers may not repeat questions or assist students in any way with the answers. All student answers are in pictorial form.
Phase I Passing Standard

- Core Total must be at/above the 85\textsuperscript{th} percentile (the student scores as well as or better than 85% of students who took the test).

- A student with a score at/above the 85\textsuperscript{th} percentile will advance to Phase II, the second day.

- Those students who do not meet the standard will enter kindergarten in the fall. An appeal of test results is not accepted.
Phase II testing consists of secure Frisco ISD Literacy, Reading, and Math Assessments that are administered to kindergarten students.
Phase II – Literacy Tests

**Literacy Subtests**
- Letter Identification
- Phonemic Awareness Assessment

*Passing Standard: 2/2 areas*

**Developmental Reading Assessment**

*Passing Standard: DRA Level 6 or higher*
Phase II – Math Test

• The Frisco ISD MATH assessment will cover what kindergarten students need to know by the end of the year and will be administered orally.

• Frisco ISD MATH PASSING STANDARD is a score of 90% items correct or better.
If I still have questions...

- You may contact the school counselor at your child’s prospective public school.

http://www.friscoisd.org/ly/schools/

This link will take you to the campus list with detailed contact information.