

What is Early Access?

Legislation

House Bill 08-1021 created the opportunity for Colorado administrative units (AUs) to accelerate **highly advanced** gifted children under age 4 for kindergarten and/or under age 5 for first grade pursuant to CRS 22-20-204(2). The Exceptional Children's Educational Act (ECEA) is Colorado's primary law with requirements for the implementation of specific elements and procedures for gifted education programs. ECEA Rules provide AUs guidance for the implementation of **early access** as well as clarify provisions for AUs to receive state education funds for early access students.

Early access is a local decision of the AU. The legislation allows AUs to determine if early access is provided as a gifted education programming option. If an AU determines early access will be provided as a gifted programming service, **all** constituent schools or districts must abide by the requirements established in the AU's early access addendum.