



## Kindergarten Entry Age

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A recently enacted Michigan law amended the Revised School Code (MCL 380.1147), which changed the minimum age requirement for a child enrolling in kindergarten. Currently, a student must be five years old by December 1<sup>st</sup> to be eligible for enrollment to kindergarten. New legislation will change the “cut-off” date and will be gradually phased-in over three years; changing the requirement by one month each year. The changes will be implemented in the following manner:

- For the 2013-14 school year, children must be five years old by November 1<sup>st</sup>
- For the 2014-15 school year, children must be five years old by October 1<sup>st</sup>
- For the 2015-16 school year, children must be five years old by September 1<sup>st</sup>

### Parent Waiver Option

If the child is not eligible for enrollment per the guidelines specified above and will be five years old by December 1<sup>st</sup>, the child’s parent or legal guardian can apply for a waiver to enroll their student in school. Waiver deadlines and other information are as follows:

- If the child resides in the school district, the waiver must be submitted to the school district no later than **June 1st** before the beginning of the school year.
- If the child becomes a resident of the school district after June 1<sup>st</sup>, the waiver must be submitted to the school district no later than **August 1<sup>st</sup>** before the beginning of the school year.
- When in receipt of a waiver, districts can make recommendations to the child’s parent or legal guardian, as to the child’s readiness for school, and whether or not the child should be enrolled early.
- Regardless of a district’s recommendation, the parent or legal guardian retains the sole discretion to enroll their child.

