

.02 Age for School Attendance.

A. Prekindergarten.

(1) Beginning with the 2002—2003 school year through the 2004—2005 school year, a child admitted to the prekindergarten program in the public schools shall be 4 years old or older on:

- (a) November 30, 2002, if the child applies for entrance for the 2002—2003 school year;
- (b) October 31, 2003, if the child applies for entrance for the 2003—2004 school year; and
- (c) September 30, 2004, if the child applies for entrance for the 2004—2005 school year.

(2) Beginning with the 2005—2006 school year and each school year thereafter, a child admitted to the prekindergarten program in the public schools shall be 4 years old or older on September 1 of the school year in which the child applies for entrance.

(3) The local board of education shall adopt a regulation permitting a 3-year-old child, upon request by the parent or guardian, to be admitted to prekindergarten if the local superintendent of schools or the superintendent's designee certifies that the child is eligible under COMAR 13A.06.02 and has demonstrated educational needs warranting early admission.

B. Kindergarten.

(1) Beginning with the 2003—2004 school year through the 2005—2006 school year, a child admitted to the kindergarten program in the public schools shall be 5 years old or older on:

- (a) November 30, 2003, if the child applies for entrance for the 2003—2004 school year;
- (b) October 31, 2004, if the child applies for entrance for the 2004—2005 school year; and
- (c) September 30, 2005, if the child applies for entrance for the 2005—2006 school year.

(2) Beginning with the 2006—2007 school year and each school year thereafter, a child admitted to the kindergarten program in the public schools shall be 5 years old or older on September 1 of the school year in which the child applies for entrance.

(3) The local board of education shall adopt a regulation permitting a 4-year-old child, upon request by the parent or guardian, to be admitted to kindergarten if the local superintendent of schools or the superintendent's designee determines that the child demonstrates capabilities warranting early admission. The regulation shall include a provision for promotion of the 5-year-old child to first grade if the local superintendent or the superintendent's designee determines that the child demonstrates capabilities warranting promotion to first grade.

C. First Grade.

(1) Beginning with the 2004—2005 school year through the 2006—2007 school year, a child admitted to the first grade in the public schools shall be 6 years old or older on:

- (a) November 30, 2004, if the child applies for entrance for the 2004—2005 school year;

(b) October 31, 2005, if the child applies for entrance for the 2005—2006 school year; and

(c) September 30, 2006, if the child applies for entrance for the 2006—2007 school year.

(2) Beginning with the 2007—2008 school year and each school year thereafter, a child admitted to the first grade in the public schools shall be 6 years old or older on September 1 of the school year in which the child applies for entrance.

(3) The local board of education shall adopt a regulation permitting a 5-year-old child, upon request of the parent or guardian, to be admitted to the first grade if the local superintendent of schools or the superintendent's designee determines that the child has demonstrated capabilities warranting early admission.

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