



# MIDE Recommends

## KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT and ALTERNATIVE KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

The sections of the *Revised School Code* that address this issue are contained in the Michigan Compiled Law under MCL 380.1147 and 388.1606.

### *Enrollment Age*

Michigan law entitles a resident child who is at least five years of age on or before December 1 to enroll in kindergarten until the 2013-2014 school year [MCL 380.1147]. For the 2013-2014 school year, a child who resides in the school district may enroll in kindergarten if the child is at least 5 years of age on November 1, 2013. For the 2014-2015 school year, a child who resides in the school district may enroll in kindergarten if the child is at least 5 years of age on October 1, 2014. Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, a child who resides in the school district may enroll in kindergarten if the child is at least 5 years of age on September 1 of the school year of enrollment. For the district to be eligible to count the pupil in membership and receive state aid, the pupil must meet these age requirements [MCL 388.1606(4)].

**Note:** *The ages prescribed above for a child's eligibility for enrollment in a school district also apply to a child's eligibility to enroll in a public school academy.*

### *Exceptions Provided for Enrollment Age*

Section 6(4)(l)(iii) of the State School Aid Act (MCL 388.1606) provides that if a child does not meet the minimum age requirement to be eligible to attend school for that school year under Section 1147, but will be 5 years of age not later than December 1 of that school year, the district may enroll the child for that school year if the parent or legal guardian has notified the district in writing that he or she intends to enroll the child in kindergarten for that school year.

A school district that receives this written notification may make a recommendation to the parent or legal guardian that the child is not ready to enroll in kindergarten due to the child's age or other factors. However, regardless of this recommendation, the parent or legal guardian retains the sole discretion to determine whether or not to enroll the child in kindergarten.

**Note:** *Districts are not required to enroll a child in kindergarten until the child meets the age eligibility of the school year of enrollment as described above. If a district did agree to enroll a four-year old who will not be at least 5 years of age by December 1, the district would not be able to claim the child for state school aid purposes.*

### *Alternative Kindergarten Programs*

The Michigan Attorney General ruled in an opinion cited as 1987 OAG 6467 that when a child is qualified by residence and age to attend kindergarten, the school district is obligated to accept the child's enrollment in kindergarten despite any recommendation of school district personnel that the child attend an alternative developmental kindergarten program.

*This information is provided as a service of the Michigan Department of Education and is distributed with the understanding that the Department is not engaged in rendering legal advice. Those individuals desiring or requiring legal advice should seek the services of an attorney.*

June 2014

According to Michigan Law (MCL 380.1147), if a child residing in Michigan is not five years of age on September 1<sup>st</sup> but will be five years of age not later than December 1st, the parent or legal guardian of that child may enroll the child in kindergarten if the parent or legal guardian notifies the school district in writing that he or she intends to enroll the child in kindergarten.

A school district that receives this written notification may make a recommendation to the parent or legal guardian as to whether the child is not ready to enroll in kindergarten due to the child's age or other factors. Regardless of the district's recommendation, the parent or legal guardian retains the sole discretion to determine whether or not to enroll the child in kindergarten if the student is five years of age not later than December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Student's Legal Last Name

First Name

Date of Birth

Verification of Age:  Birth Certificate  Government Record  
(Check one)  Court Record  Citizenship Paper  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Specify)

Evidence of School Readiness (provided by parent):

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

-----  
\* \* \* \* Do not write below line. Information is for School Office use only. \* \* \* \*  
-----

### Elementary School Recommendation

Elementary School: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

Agrees with the recommendation of the parents to enroll in Kindergarten.

Recommends kindergarten begin in September of the next year for the following reasons:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Administrator's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date