



# StateNotes

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## Other Age Issues

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	Other Age Issues
Alabama	If a district chooses to offer kindergarten, "children from 5- to 8-years-of-age may be admitted to kindergarten on such terms and conditions which county boards of education may prescribe." (Ala. Code § 16-8-41)
Alaska	Not specified in statute
Arizona	The state board of education may "exclude from grades 1-8 children under six years of age." (Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-342)
Arkansas	Any parent or guardian "may elect for the child not to attend kindergarten if the child will not be age 6 on September 15 of that particular school year." (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-201)
California	The kindergarten readiness pilot program allows selected districts to raise the kindergarten entrance cut-off date to September 1. Children who would have been eligible for kindergarten under the December 2 deadline will be given the opportunity to attend public pre-kindergarten classes instead. (Cal. Educ. Code § 48005)
Colorado	--
Connecticut	"The parent or person having control of a child 6 years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the child is 7 years of age...by personally appearing at the school district office and signing an option form." (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-184)
Delaware	Not specified in statute
District of Columbia	Not applicable
Florida	Not specified in statute

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Georgia	Not specified in statute
Hawaii	Not specified in statute
Idaho	Not specified in statute
Illinois	Districts may offer kindergarten to children age 4 to 6. (105 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/10-22.18)  However, only 1 year of kindergarten attendance will be paid for by the state "except in case of children who entered the kindergarten in their 5th year whose educational development requires a second year of kindergarten as determined under the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education." (105 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/18-8.05)
Indiana	Not specified in statute
Iowa	"The board may exclude from school children under the age of 6 years when in its judgment such children are not sufficiently mature to be benefited by regular instruction, or any child who is found to be physically or mentally unable to attend school under section 299.5, or whose presence in school has been found to be injurious to the health of other pupils, or is efficiently taught for the scholastic year at a state institution. However, the board shall provide special education programs and services...for all children requiring special education." (Iowa Code § 282.3)
Kansas	Not specified in statute
Kentucky	A child "who is less than 7 years old and is enrolled and in regular attendance in a private kindergarten-nursery school" shall be exempted from compulsory attendance requirements. (Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 159.030)
Louisiana	Not specified in statute
Maine	Under the "Early Childhood Educational Plans for Children Ages 4 to 9," local units may elect to develop "two-year kindergartens. . .to address the needs of 4-year-old children." (Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A § 4252)
Maryland	Maryland raised the entrance age over the years as follows: 2003-04: November 30 2004-05: October 31 2005-06: September 30 2006-07: September 1 (Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-301)
Massachusetts	Not specified in statute

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Michigan	Not specified in statute
Minnesota	Not specified in statute
Mississippi	Not specified in statute
Missouri	Not specified in statute
Montana	Not specified in statute
Nebraska	Not specified in statute
Nevada	Not specified in statute
New Hampshire	Not specified in statute
New Jersey	No child under the age of 5 years shall be admitted to any public school, except such as may be provided pursuant to law for children of his age. No board of education shall be required to accept by transfer from public or private school any pupil who was not eligible by reason of age for admission on October 1 of that school year, but the board may in its discretion admit any such pupil if he or she meets such entrance requirements as may be established by rules or regulations of the board. (N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:38-5)
New Mexico	Not specified in statute
New York	Kindergarten "shall be free to resident children between the ages of 4 and 6 years, provided, however (each local school board) may fix a higher minimum age for admission to such kindergartens." (N.Y. Educ. § 1712)
North Carolina	None found
North Dakota	Not specified in statute
Ohio	In school districts granting admittance during a term other than one beginning in September or August, a child must be 5 on or before the first day of that term in order to attend kindergarten. (Oh. Rev. Code Ann. § 3321.01)
Oklahoma	Compulsory school attendance for a child from the age at which the child is eligible to attend kindergarten is a condition of participation in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program (Okla Stat. Ann. tit. 56 §230.66)

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Oregon	Not specified in statute
Pennsylvania	"The board of school directors in any school district may establish and maintain kindergartens for children between the ages of 4 and 6 years." (Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. 24 P.S. § 5-503)  Each district may refuse to accept or retain 1st graders who "have not attained a mental age of 5 years, as determined by the supervisor of special education or a properly certificated public school psychologist." (Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. 24 P.S. §13-304)
Puerto Rico	Not applicable
Rhode Island	Not specified in statute
South Carolina	Districts may choose to admit children to kindergarten or 1st grade before the state entrance age, however the district is not entitled to receive any state aid for students admitted early. (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-63-20)
South Dakota	Not specified in statute
Tennessee	A local board may "provide a procedure for determining the competency of students who have attended kindergarten to advance directly to 2nd grade." (Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3106)
Texas	None
Utah	Not specified in statute
Vermont	Not specified in statute
Virgin Islands	Not applicable
Virginia	A 5-year-old child is compliant with compulsory laws if he is enrolled in any public educational pre-kindergarten program, including a Head Start program, or in a private, denominational or parochial educational pre-kindergarten program. (Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-199)
Washington	Not specified in statute
West Virginia	The state board must establish guidelines for enrollment prior to a child's reaching compulsory school age (6) in districts where school entry and grade promotion is allowed at the semester mark. In such schools, students turning 6 between July 1 and December 31 may enter 1st grade during the first

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	semester, and those turning 6 between January 1 and June 30 may enter during the second semester. (W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-5-400)
Wisconsin	Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in this state.
Wyoming	Not specified in statute

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