

## Early Entry Option for Kindergarten Enrollment Parent Guide #4

A new Michigan Law amended the Revised School Code (MCL 380.1147) changing the minimum age requirement for a child enrolling in kindergarten. The entry age for kindergarten will be gradually changed to require that children be five years old on or before September 1. This change is being phased-in over three years, changing the cut-off date for enrollment by one month each year.

- For the 2013-2014 school year, children must be five years old on or before November 1.
- For the 2014-2015 school year, children must be five years old on or before October 1.
- For the 2015-2016 school year (and beyond), children must be five years old on or before September 1.

### **Early Entry Option:**

With the change in the state law about when a child can enroll in kindergarten, some children may end up having to wait an extra year to attend. This concerned lawmakers. What if your child's birthday causes him or her to just miss being able to enroll? For example, in 2013-2014, those children who turn five between November 2, 2013 and December 1, 2013 would wait until 2014 to go to kindergarten. That's where the "early entry option" comes in.

If you, as the parent or legal guardian of a child who is not five years old by the cut-off date, but will be five years old on or before December 1, wants to enroll your child in kindergarten the school year BEFORE he or she would now be age eligible to enroll, you must notify the school district of your plan.

### **Important Deadlines:**

- If your child lives in the school district, your written notice must be submitted to the school district no later than June 1 before the beginning of the school year.
- If your child becomes a resident of the school district after June 1, your written notice must be submitted to the school district no later than August 1 before the beginning of the school year.

Once a school district receives notice of the desire by parents to enroll their child who just misses the age cut-off, they consider the request. They may talk with you about your child's readiness for school, and about the kinds of things that children will be expected to do and learn in kindergarten. They may also recommend whether or not your child should be enrolled early. Regardless of what they recommend, you make the final decision about whether or not to enroll your child in kindergarten.