

## Selecting Full or Half-Day Kindergarten, Which Is Best for My Child? Parent Guide #6

**Michigan law** requires all school districts to offer a program for all children who will be five on or before November 1, 2013.

**Beginning in 2014, a child who is five years old on or before October 1 may enroll in kindergarten; and in 2015 and beyond, a child who is five years old on or before September 1 may enroll in kindergarten.\***

This program does not have to be traditional kindergarten. For example, five year olds may be served in a mixed age classroom with other children. Programming for five year olds must be available for at least one-half of the hours of the other grades.

**Districts may choose different schedules.**

- Morning or afternoon sessions
- Full-day sessions
- Alternate full-day sessions

Over time, most school districts in Michigan have decided to offer full day, every day sessions for kindergarten. This allows children more learning time.

Regardless if your child is in full day kindergarten or a part-day session with connecting child care, you will want to assure yourself that the settings provide lots of experiences for active play and learning suited to the child, along with ample opportunities to rest and relax.

**Some schools offer before- and after-school child care. There is usually a cost. The benefit is that the child can stay in one place for the whole day.**

- Schools may have limited openings in their full-day choice of kindergarten with connecting child care.
- A child care license from the Department of Human Services (DHS) should be displayed in the classroom or office when before-or after-school care is in place.

**Schools cannot charge for kindergarten. They may charge for that part of the day which is considered before- or after-school child care.**

***\*Please see Parent Guide #4 for information about an early entry option for kindergarten enrollment.***