

## Entrance Age Requirements

A child may enter kindergarten if five years old on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of enrollment. Younger students who do not meet the district's entrance age requirement for kindergarten but who are five years old on or before October 1 may be accepted if transferring from another kindergarten program, if the principal or designee determines that placement of the student in kindergarten is appropriate. A child who is four years old on or before the district's start date for kindergarten and has been identified as a highly advanced gifted student in accordance with applicable state law may enroll in kindergarten, if the principal or designee determines that placement of the student in kindergarten is appropriate.

Students enrolling in the first grade may enter if they are six years old on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of enrollment. A student who is at least five years old on or before October 1 may be permitted to enroll in first grade if the student completed a kindergarten program and if the principal determines that placement of the student in first grade is appropriate. A child who is five years old on or before October 1 and has been identified as a highly advanced gifted student in accordance with applicable state law may enroll in first grade, if the principal or designee determines that placement of the student in first grade is appropriate.

Waivers requesting exceptions from this policy may be submitted in accordance with Policy JEB-R *Procedure Guidelines for Early Entrance Waivers*.

A legal birth certificate or other acceptable record shall be required for enrollment age certification. The principal or designee will make exceptions to these entrance age requirements in accordance with state law pertaining to the education of military children.

Adopted: 07/12/88

Revised: 10/11/07, 04/24/08, 11/13/08, 07/19/12, 04/09/15

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-1-115 (*school age*)  
C.R.S. 22-20-204 (*program plan requirements regarding highly advanced gifted children*)  
C.R.S. 22-32-119 (*kindergarten*)  
C.R.S. 22-54-103(10) (*sets October 1 date for funding*)  
C.R.S. 22-54-103 (10.5) (*defines pupil enrollment count day*)  
C.R.S. 24-60-3402 (*Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children*)  
1 CCR 301-8, 2220-R-12.00 (*highly advanced gifted children*)

CROSS REF.: JEA, Compulsory Attendance Ages

*NOTE 1: While school boards are allowed to establish the entrance age requirement for the district, state law specifies that a district may count and receive funding only for students enrolled in the first grade who are six years old on or before October 1 of the applicable budget year, who are five years old on or before October 1 and attended at least 120 days of kindergarten in another state, or who are five years old on or before the district's start date and identified as highly advanced gifted students. C.R.S. 22-54-103 (10)(a)(IV)(A) & (B). Similarly, state law specifies that a district may count and receive funding only for kindergarten students who are five years old on or before October 1 of the applicable budget year or for kindergarten students who are four years old on or before the district's start date and identified as highly advanced gifted students. C.R.S. 22-54-103 (10)(a)(V)(A) & (B).*

*NOTE 2: The Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, C.R.S. 24-60-3402 requires districts to enroll children of military families in kindergarten or first grade, regardless of the child's age if: (1) the child is transferring from another state and was enrolled in kindergarten or first grade in the other state; and (2) the child has a parent(s) who is active military. The Interstate Compact overrides the entrance age requirements of the School Finance Act, C.R.S. 22-54-103(10). Please contact CDE's school finance unit for the audit requirements pertaining to this exception.*