



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
EDUCATION ACTIVITY
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Education Directorate

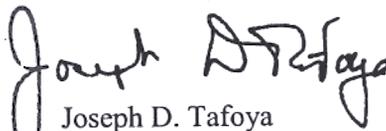
02-E-001

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY
POLICY MEMORANDUM

Minimum Age Requirement for Kindergarten and First Grade Overseas Dependents

It is the policy of the Department of Defense Dependents Schools (DoDDS) that a child must turn 5 or 6 by October 31 of the enrolling year for entrance into kindergarten and first grade respectively in accordance with DS Regulation 2000.3, "DoD Dependents Schools Student Placement," dated July 11, 1989. This policy memorandum reflects a forthcoming revision of DoD Directive 1342.13, "Eligibility Requirements for Education of Minor Dependents in Overseas Schools," dated July 8, 1982, and supersedes any previous guidance for the minimum age requirement for kindergarten and first grade for school year 2001-02.

The only permitted exceptions to the October 31 date are for students who transfer in and meet the criteria outlined in the attached. Parents of a child who meet these criteria may request a waiver for their child to attend kindergarten or first grade from the Principal. No exceptions will be granted for children whose birthdays fall after December 31 of the enrolling year.


Joseph D. Tafoya
Director



Exceptions to the Minimum Age Requirement for Kindergarten and First Grade

Transfer Enrollment:

The Elementary School Principal is authorized to make an exception to the minimum age requirement for space-required students when the following criteria are met:

- (a) The child must turn 5 by December 31 of the enrolling year for entrance into kindergarten in all transfer cases along with meeting criteria b – f.
- (b) The child was enrolled in their prior kindergarten or first grade program for a minimum of 9 weeks during the same school year (SY) in which the child seeks to transfer into DoDDS.
- (c) The prior enrollment began within 30 days of the start of the enrolling school's regular SY and was continuous but for the time required to travel from the prior school to DoDDS.
- (d) At the time of enrollment in the prior program, the child met the age requirement by the governing state's minimum age requirement statute or by documented exception to the former school district's minimum age requirement.
- (e) The prior enrollment was in a duly accredited program; i.e., a school recognized by the local school district.
- (f) The school from which the student transferred was outside of the local military and/or commuting distance to a Department of Defense Education Activity school (DoDEA). Transfers in this sense are limited to students who came to a DoDEA school because of a sponsor's permanent change of station (PCS). Exceptions to (f) occur when a student has recently become an eligible dependent (i.e., marriage or adoption).

If a child has attended kindergarten in a non-DoDDS American school for one SY and seeks underage enrollment the succeeding year in a DoDDS first grade, the Principal may enroll the child in a DoDDS first grade if the child meets criteria a, c, d, and e, above.

If a child has attended a host nation program kindergarten or equivalent local program for one SY and seeks underage enrollment the succeeding year in a DoDDS first grade, the Principal may enroll the child in a DoDDS first grade if the child meets criteria a, c, d, and e above and if, in the judgment of the principal, the prior program afforded educational instruction appropriate to the grade level. Children entering a DoDEA school from a British program should adhere to the following "grade" equivalencies. For example, if a child were transferring from a British school after completing Reception and Year 1 the child would enter first grade in the succeeding school year.