

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
EDUCATION ACTIVITY
4040 NORTH FAIRFAX DRIVE
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22203-1635**

December 3, 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR AREA DEPUTY DIRECTORS
AREA EDUCATION CHIEFS
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS
PRINCIPALS, DoDEA
TEACHERS, DoDEA

SUBJECT: Minimum Age Requirement Policy Change

On November 26, 2008 Dr. Miles signed Policy Memorandum 08-ESPL-005: Minimum Age Requirement for Pre-Kindergarten, the Sure Start program, Kindergarten, and First Grade Dependents. This Policy Memorandum changes the minimum age requirement for enrollment from 31 October to 1 September.

The only permitted exceptions to the September 1 date are for transfer students who meet the outlined criteria attached to the Policy Memorandum. Principals are authorized to make exception for space-required transfer students when one of the following criteria is met:

1. A student who was enrolled in, and attended his or her prior school shall be allowed to continue enrollment at grade level in DoDEA; commensurate with the student's current grade level, including kindergarten, while in a school of a local educational agency in the assigned sending state, or the Non-DoD Schools Program; at the time of transition, regardless of age.
2. Beginning at the first grade level, a student that has satisfactorily completed the prerequisite grade level in the local educational agency in the assigned sending state, or the Non-DoD Schools Program, shall be eligible for enrollment in the next highest grade level in DoDEA, regardless of age. *(This exception includes SY 09/10 first grade enrollment of current DoDEA students that complete Kindergarten during SY 08/09 and will not turn six years of age by 1 September)* Prekindergarten is not a prerequisite grade level for kindergarten entrance. Age is the only prerequisite for first time enrollment in kindergarten.

Please direct questions or concerns to Lori Pickel, the DoDEA HQ POC, who may be reached by email or phone (703-588-3113).

“Original Signed”
Marc Mossburg
Curriculum Chief

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Attachments: Entrance Age Policy Memo_08-ESPL-005
Entrance Age Frequently Asked Questions