

## Frequently Asked Questions

**If my child turns five years old on 1 September 2009, will he be able to enroll in the DoDEA Kindergarten program this coming school year (2009-2010)?**

Yes, he will be able to enroll in the kindergarten program.

**Since my child just misses the deadline for enrollment, is there a DoDEA Preschool program which my child can attend?**

At DoDDS schools on overseas installations, some children turning 4 years old by September 1 could qualify for the DoDEA Sure Start Program.

At DDESS schools, all children turning 4 years old by September 1 are eligible to enroll in the half-day Prekindergarten program.

In most locations the DoD has funded Child Development Centers which are options for parents to consider for preschool-age children.

**My child turned 5 years old on September 15, but was eligible to attend Kindergarten in the state where we lived because the entrance cut-off birth date was after September 1. With three weeks completed in the school year, we received orders to PCS to a location where my child will attend a DoDEA school. Will my child be allowed to continue in Kindergarten?**

Yes, a student who was enrolled in, and attended his or her prior school shall be allowed to continue enrollment at the 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 the fact their birthday is after September 1st.

Note: The child must have been active in the current school year, and verification of enrollment is required (transfer sheet, report card, etc).

For more FAQs visit:

[www.dodea.edu/back\\_to\\_school/kindergarten.cfm?cid=faq](http://www.dodea.edu/back_to_school/kindergarten.cfm?cid=faq)

# dodea

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY



This version replaces the previous brochure dated 02/2009.



EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION  
PK, Kindergarten & 1st Grade

## ENTRANCE AGE CHANGE

For more information, contact your local elementary school principal.

DoDEA has made an important change to its entrance age eligibility requirement that affects the early childhood program beginning in School Year 2009-10. The entrance eligibility birth date has been adjusted from October 31 to September 1.

**For Sure Start and Pre-Kindergarten Programs:**

A child must be 4 years of age on or before September 1 to be eligible to attend the DoDEA Sure Start Program and Pre-Kindergarten Program.

**For the DoDEA Kindergarten Program:**

A child must be 5 years of age on or before September 1 to be eligible to attend kindergarten in DoDEA Schools.

**For the DoDEA First Grade Program:**

A child must be 6 years of age on or before September 1 or have completed an accredited kindergarten program to be eligible to attend first grade in DoDEA Schools.

The decision is the result of careful consideration and extensive coordination of educators and administrators as well as DoDEA advisory councils. Current trends were researched and reviewed, resulting in a recommendation to change the minimum entrance age requirement. The change aligns DoDEA's early childhood entrance age with the majority of military-impacted states.



DoDEA wants to inform families about this change well in advance so everyone can plan ahead to make the beginning of their child's educational journey a rewarding experience.

**Special Considerations:**

- Students attending Domestic Dependents Elementary and Secondary Schools (DDESS) Pre-Kindergarten Program, Department of Defense Dependent Schools (DoDDS) Sure Start Program, or DoDEA Preschool Services for Children with Disabilities (PSCD) will be allowed to attend the DoDEA programs for an additional year if they do not meet the new kindergarten entrance age.
- For School Year 2009-10, students who have completed DoDEA or non-DoD funded kindergarten program (NDSP) are eligible for enrollment in first grade.
- Effective July 2009, exceptions to this change will accommodate all students who have completed

kindergarten in the previous school year and families who move under Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders after the start of the school year whose students are already attending an accredited kindergarten or first grade.

**Exceptions:**

**Kindergarten**

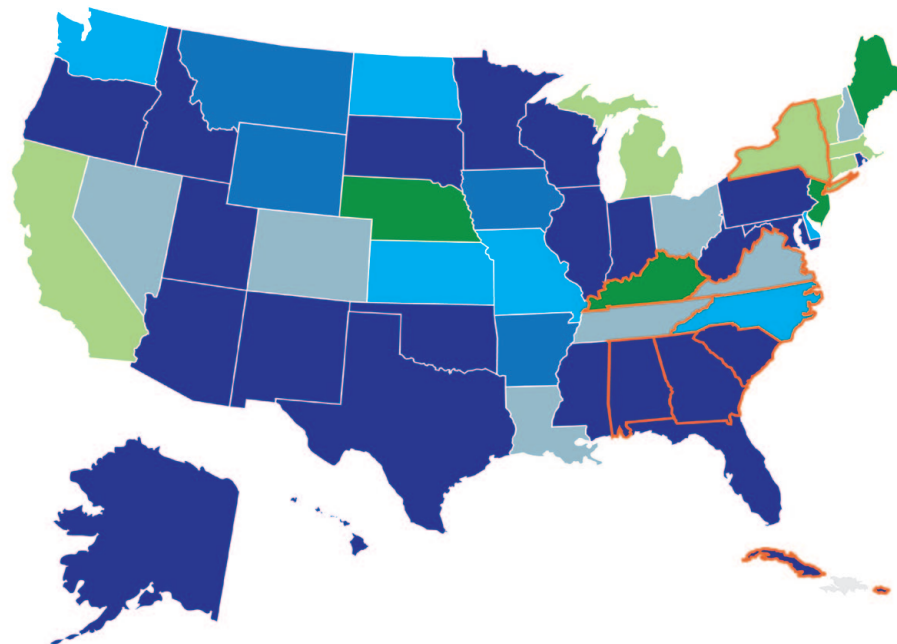
Exceptions will be granted for students transferring (PCS) during the school year who attended a local school at the previously assigned military location.

**First Grade**

Exceptions will be granted for students who have completed a year of kindergarten at a previously assigned military location or who are transferring (PCS) during the school year and attended a local school at the previously assigned military location.

For more details on the changing policy, visit: [www.dodea.edu/foia/ioc/pdf/08esp1004.pdf](http://www.dodea.edu/foia/ioc/pdf/08esp1004.pdf)

**State-by-State Kindergarten Entrance Age Requirements**



- Cut-off dates occur on or before 8/31
- Must be 5 on or before 9/1 or 9/2
- Must be 5 on or before 9/10 or 9/15
- Must be 5 on or before 9/30
- October cut-off date
- Cut-off date after October
- States with DDESS schools affected by the change