



MDDE Recommends

KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT and ALTERNATIVE KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS

The sections of the *Revised School Code* that address this issue are contained in the Michigan Compiled Law under MCL 380.1147 and 388.1606.

Enrollment Age

Michigan law entitles a resident child who is at least five years of age on or before December 1 to enroll in kindergarten [MCL 380.1147]. For the district to be eligible to count the pupil in membership and receive state aid, the pupil must meet this age requirement [MCL 388.1606(4)].

Districts are not required to enroll a child in kindergarten until the child is five years of age on or before December 1 of the school year of enrollment. If a district did agree to enroll a four-year old, the district would not be able to claim the child for state school aid purposes.

Instructional Time Requirements

Beginning in the 2009-2010 school year, to receive a full foundation allowance for pupils in a developmental program, the number of pupil instructional hours must match that of grades 1-12 [MCL 388.1606(4)(r)]. Consequently, a half-day developmental kindergarten program will generate .5 FTE per pupil (one-half of a foundation) beginning in 2009-2010.

Beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, to receive a full foundation allowance for pupils in a regular kindergarten program, the pupil instructional hours must be at least 60% of the required hours for grades 1-12. The full-time equivalency (FTE) for a regular kindergarten pupil will be based on 658.8 hours as opposed to 549 hours currently. A half-day program would then generate 0.83 (549 hours/658.8 hours) FTE per pupil.

Beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, the instructional hours in the kindergarten program must be at least 70% of the required hours for grades 1-12. The FTE for a regular kindergarten pupil will be based on 768.6 hours. A half-day program would then generate 0.71 (549 hours/768.6 hours) FTE per pupil.

Alternative Kindergarten Programs

The Michigan Attorney General ruled in an opinion cited as 1987 OAG 6467 that when a child is qualified by residence and age to attend kindergarten, the school district is obligated to accept the child's enrollment in kindergarten despite any recommendation of school district personnel that the child attend an alternative developmental kindergarten program.