

Dear Parents,

As a result of [House Bill 235](#), changes were made to the Kentucky State-Funded Preschool Program .A new minimum age requirement for state-funded preschool students requires an August 1 birthday instead of October 1 and will take effect **July 15, 2014**.

School Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Preschool	Age 4 on or before 8/1/2014 Date of Birth: 8/2/2009-8/1/2010	Age 4 on or before 8/1/2015 Date of Birth: 8/2/2010-8/1/2011	Age 4 on or before 8/1/2016 Date of Birth: 8/2/2011-8/1/2012	Age 4 on or before 8/1/2017 Date of Birth: 8/2/2012-8/1/2013	Age 4 on or before 8/1/2018 Date of Birth: 8/2/2013-8/1/2014
Kindergarten	Age 5 on or before 10/1/2014 Date of Birth: 10/2/2008-10/1/2009	Age 5 on or before 10/1/2015 Date of Birth: 10/2/2009-10/1/2010	Age 5 on or before 10/1/2016 Date of Birth: 10/2/2010-10/1/2011	Age 5 on or before 8/1/2017 Date of Birth: 10/2/2011-8/1/2012 *	Age 5 on or before 8/1/2018 Date of Birth: 8/2/2012-8/1/2013 *

What parents need to know?

- If your student is eligible and enrolled in preschool by **July 15, 2014**, he/she is eligible to attend preschool this year. If your child attends preschool this year, he/she is eligible for state-funded preschool the 2014-15 school year **ONLY**. The student will need to be enrolled in Kindergarten in 2015-16. Districts may not count these students toward preschool enrollment in 2015-16.

All other children turning four (4) after August 1 will not be eligible to enroll for 2014-15 school year. Parents of income-eligible students who turn four (4) between August 2 and October 1, 2014, may choose not to have their student attend preschool in 2014-15. Those students will be eligible for both preschool and kindergarten in the 2015-16 school year. Parents will need to choose the best enrollment option for their students.

- If your child is three (3) with a disability, school districts are required to provide instruction to children, aged three (3) to twenty-one (21) with disabilities based on the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and Kentucky special education regulations (707 KAR 1:002-1:380). Existing practice regarding incoming three-year olds will not change. If a current preschool student with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) turns five between August 2 and October 1, 2014 he or she would be eligible for both preschool and kindergarten. In this

case, the Admissions and Release Committee (ARC) would determine the placement, based on individual student need. The student could be eligible for an additional year of preschool. It is recommended that children in this scenario transition to kindergarten with similar aged peers.

- Some children will turn five (5) between August 1 and October 1, 2015, meaning they will be eligible for state-funded preschool **AND** kindergarten in the 2015-16 school year. However, districts cannot simultaneously enroll these children in both programs; a decision must be made to enroll in one program or the other. Decisions must be made locally, and schools should work closely with families to meet the learning needs of each child entering school. Children develop at different rates across the learning continuum, and schools must be ready to meet children where they are developmentally.

If you have questions, please contact your local district. The Kentucky Department of Education will be providing them with the most up-to-date guidance on these changes.