

Age Eligibility Requirement for Kentucky State-Funded Preschool Guidance for School Districts

What Changed?

As a result of [House Bill 235](#) on July 15, 2014, the enrollment date for at risk 4s was changed from October 1 to August 1. At risk children who are four (4) years old on or before August 1 are age-eligible for the state-funded preschool program. The kindergarten enrollment date is scheduled to move from Oct. 1 to August 1 in the 2017-18 school year. **In addition, the income eligibility requirement will change from 150% to 160% of poverty in 2015-16.**

School Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
Preschool	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
Kindergarten	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: 8/2/2011-8/1/2012

What options are there for children turning four after August 1?

Districts should support families of non-eligible young children with existing strategies and resources, including referrals to child care and Head Start. Tuition may be an option if space is available. Districts may also share child development materials such as the Early Childhood Parent Guides and other early childhood learning opportunities within the community.

What about preschool children with disabilities?

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). For incoming children with an Individualized Education Program (IEP), the district determines the grade of the child (97, 98 or 99) depending on how old the child is on August 1st. Existing practice regarding incoming three year olds will not change. If a child is coming from First Steps and is eligible for special education services, the IEP must be in place by the child's third birthday.

If a current preschool student with an IEP turns five between August 2 and October 1, he or she will be eligible for either preschool or kindergarten. In this case, the Admissions and Release Committee (ARC) will determine placement based on individual student need. Decisions must be made locally and schools must 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.

What about Head Start and school district full utilization agreements?

Each year school districts and Head Start providers agree to fully utilize Head Start funds and avoid supplanting federal funds being used to provide services. Federal funds must be used first. Since Head Start is required to follow the date used by school districts to determine eligibility, some partnerships may need to adjust full utilization agreement numbers based on the number of four year olds currently served with birthdates between August 1 and October 1.

If a child was an income eligible 4 year old during the 2014-15 school year and the child has their 5th birthday between August 1 and Oct. 1st of the 2015-16 school year can he/she attend preschool for another year?

KDE will not support funding at risk 4 year olds for 2 years. A child who has been in preschool as an at risk 4 year old for a year should not attend preschool again unless there is a disability and the ARC committee has determined that the best placement for the child will be in the preschool program.

How will the preschool students be identified in Infinite Campus/Kentucky's Student Information System (KSIS)?

The Infinite Campus system is set up to pull data for the current system of children entering the preschool program according to their age on August 1st.

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