



# StateNotes

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## Provision for Skipping Kindergarten

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	Provision for Skipping Kindergarten
Alabama	"An underage child who transfers from the 1st grade of a school in another state may be admitted to school upon approval of the board of education in authority, and an underage child who has moved into this state having completed or graduated from a mandated kindergarten program in another state shall be entitled to admission to the public elementary schools regardless of age." (Ala. Code § 16-28-24)
Alaska	Not specified in statute
Arizona	If, in consultation with the parent/guardian, the child, the teacher and the school principal, it is determined to be in the best interest of the child, a child may be admitted to the 1st grade early. Such child must reach the required age of 6 by January 1 of the current school year. (Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-821)
Arkansas	Not specified in statute
California	A kindergarten child who is judged by the administration of the school district to be ready for 1st grade work may be admitted to the 1st grade at the discretion of the school administration and with the consent of the child's parent or guardian if the child is at least 5 years old and meets the following criteria:  1) The child has attended a public school kindergarten for a long enough time to enable school personnel to evaluate his ability; 2) The child is in the upper 5% of his age group in terms of general mental ability; and 3) The physical development and social maturity of the child are consistent with advanced mental ability.  (Cal. Educ. Code § 48011; Cal. Code Regs. 5 § 200)
Colorado	A child who will be 5 by October 1 of the current school year and is identified as a "highly advanced gifted child" may enter 1st grade at age 5. (Colo. Rev. Stat. § 22-20-104.5)
Connecticut	Not specified in statute

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Delaware	Not specified in statute
District of Columbia	Not specified in statute
Florida	Not specified in statute
Georgia	A child who was a legal resident "of one or more other states for a period of two years immediately prior to moving" to Georgia, and was legally enrolled in kindergarten, shall be eligible for enrollment in 1st grade if the child will attain the age of 6 by December 31 and "is otherwise qualified."
Hawaii	Not specified in statute
Idaho	"Any child of the age of 5 years who has completed a private or public out-of-state kindergarten. . .but has not reached the school age requirement in Idaho shall be allowed to enter the 1st grade." (Idaho Code § 33-201)
Illinois	Not specified in statute
Indiana	Not specified in statute
Iowa	"A child under 6 years of age who has been admitted to school work for the year immediately preceding the 1st grade under conditions approved by the department of education or who has demonstrated the possession of sufficient ability to profit by 1st grade work on the basis of tests or other means of evaluation recommended or approved by the department of education, may be admitted to 1st grade at any time before December 31." (Iowa Code § 282.3)
Kansas	"Any child who has completed a kindergarten course entered and attended in this state or who was a resident in another state and who, while residing in such other state, had entered and was in attendance in 1st grade in such state or who had completed in such state a kindergarten course maintained by a public school district or by an accredited private, denominational or parochial school shall be eligible to attend 1st grade in this state, regardless of age." (Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-1107(b))
Kentucky	"A school district may advance a student through the primary program when it is determined that it is in the best educational interest of the student. A student who is at least five (5) years of age, but less than six (6) years of age, and is advanced in the primary program may be classified as other than a kindergarten student for purposes of funding under KRS 157.310 to 157.440 if the student is determined to have acquired the academic and social skills taught in kindergarten as determined by local board policy in accordance with the process established by Kentucky Board of Education administrative regulation." (Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 158.031)

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Louisiana	Children must attend kindergarten before attending 1st grade unless they have satisfactorily passed an academic screening administered by the city or parish school system. Each parish or school system may establish academic readiness levels for its 1st grade based on criteria established by the system. (La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 17:151.3)
Maine	Not specified in statute
Maryland	"The local board of education may adopt a regulation permitting a 5-year-old child, upon request of the parent or guardian, to be admitted to the 1st grade if the local superintendent of schools or the superintendent's designee determines that the child has demonstrated capabilities warranting early admission." (Md. Regs. Code tit. 13A., § 08.01.02)
Massachusetts	Not specified in statute
Michigan	If a district does not offer kindergarten, "a child who is at least 5 years of age on the first day of enrollment of the school year, shall have a right to attend school in the district." (Mich. Comp. Laws § 380.1147)
Minnesota	Any school board may establish a policy for admission of selected pupils at an earlier age. (Minn. Stat. § 120A.20)
Mississippi	Not specified in statute
Missouri	Not specified in statute
Montana	Not specified in statute
Nebraska	Not specified in statute
Nevada	"If a child is not 6 years of age on or before September 30 of a school year, the child must not be admitted to the 1st grade until the beginning of the school year following his 6th birthday." (Nev. Rev. Stat. § 392.040)
New Hampshire	Not specified in statute
New Jersey	Not specified in statute
New Mexico	Not specified in statute
New York	Not specified in statute

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North Carolina	If a principal finds, subsequent to initial kindergarten entry, that a child, by reason of maturity, can be more appropriately served in the 1st grade, the child may be placed in 1st grade, regardless of age (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-364(c))
North Dakota	A child must be 6 by September 1 before he enters 1st grade unless he: a) can demonstrate special talents or abilities; or b) has completed an approved kindergarten program. (N.D. Cent. Code § 15.1-06-01)
Ohio	Not specified in statute
Oklahoma	"No child shall be enrolled in kindergarten unless he or she will have reached the age of five (5) years or before September 1 of the school year." (Okla. Stat. Ann. tit..70 § 1 -114)
Oregon	A district school board may admit a child "whose needs for cognitive, social and physical development would best be met in the school program, as defined by policies of the district school board, to school even though the child has not attained the minimum age requirement." (Or. Rev. Stat. § 339.115)
Pennsylvania	Each district may choose to provide early entrance to students "in accordance with standards prescribed by the state board of education" (Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. 24 P.S. § 13-1304)
Puerto Rico	Not specified in statute
Rhode Island	"Every child shall be eligible to attend 1st grade only upon completion of a state recognized or accredited kindergarten program." (R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-2-28)
South Carolina	Districts may choose to admit children to kindergarten or 1st grade before the state entrance age, however the district is not entitled to receive any state aid for students admitted early. (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-63-20)
South Dakota	Any child who transfers from another state may proceed in a continuous educational program without interruption. (S.D. Codified Laws § 13-28-2)
Tennessee	"No child shall be eligible to enter 1st grade...without having attended an approved kindergarten program." (Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-201)
Texas	A child who has completed kindergarten in another state may attend 1st grade before he has turned 6. (Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 42.003)
Utah	Not specified in statute

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Vermont	Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in this state.
Virgin Islands	Not specified in statute
Virginia	None
Washington	Local education agencies may set the entrance age for 1st grade and may make exceptions for individual students based on ability, need or both. (Wash Admin. Code § 28A.225.160)
West Virginia	"A county board may provide for advanced entrance or placement under policies adopted by said board for any child who has demonstrated sufficient mental and physical competency for such entrance or placement." (W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-8-1a)
Wisconsin	Each district must prescribe "procedures, conditions and standards for early admission to...1st grade" (Wis. Stat. Ann. § 120.12)
Wyoming	Not specified in statute

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