

FAQ's New kindergarten entry requirements

How old does my child have to be to enter kindergarten?

For the 2022-23 school year, incoming kindergarten students need to be five years of age on or before the start of the school they attend. Students entering schools in the Reno-Sparks area must be five on or before Monday, August 15. Unless they have attended pre-kindergarten in a school or home school setting and have a birthday before September 30, 2022.

Also, children attending one of the schools on the construction calendar will use the Monday, August 29 date.

Does this new rule apply to all schools, including charter schools?

Yes, all students in the state now need to follow the new entry date requirements set by the Nevada Department of Education. The amendment to NRS 392.040 requires **students entering kindergarten to be five years of age on or before the first date of a school year**. Unless they have attended pre-kindergarten in a school or home school setting and have a birthday before September 30, 2022.

If my child turns five after the start of the school year, can they be admitted into kindergarten?

Unfortunately, NRS 392.040 states that for a student to start kindergarten, they need to be five on or before the start of the school they attend for the school year. Therefore, students who turn five after the start date on the balanced calendar, capital projects, or Incline calendar will have to wait until the following year to attend kindergarten.

My child is currently attending a pre-k program and won't be five on time to start kindergarten. Can they enter kindergarten this upcoming school year?

According to the Nevada Department of Education, for the 2022-2023 school year only, students who have attended a preschool setting and whose birthday falls between the first day of school and September 30 – the previous start date for kindergarten- are allowed to continue to the next grade level.

To be admitted to kindergarten, families must complete an affidavit stating that their child attended a preschool program – home based, private, or WCSD program AND will be five years old on or before September 30, 2022. **This exemption only applies to children attending kindergarten for the 2022-2023 school year.**

This includes:

- Children who are four and have attended one year of pre-k and are ready to advance to kindergarten; and

- Five-year-old who have attended one year of kindergarten are ready to advance to first grade, even if their birthdate falls within the window described above.

My child is academically ready for kindergarten but won't be five until after the start of the school year. Can they take a readiness test to be admitted?

Admission to kindergarten is based on the student's age by the start of the school year. All incoming kindergarten students take a readiness assessment, but that is not a form of admission.

Suppose my family moves to the Reno-Sparks area after the start of the school year. Can my child be admitted into kindergarten?

If your child is five on the date that the new school starts, your child will be admitted to kindergarten. If a family needs to move their student to a new school, they can attend if the student is five years of age when they start school and are attending their zoned school.

Students who completed a pre-kindergarten program who would have been five by September 30, 2022, will be admitted to kindergarten. Parents must submit a signed affidavit of pre-kindergarten completion.

I'm worried that my child will not thrive in kindergarten if they wait one more year to start school. What options are available to ensure they are successful when they enter kindergarten?

Families can consider enrolling their child in a preschool setting such as Head Start or the [early education program WCSD](#) offers. Children's Cabinet has a listing of [child care providers](#) and [financial assistance](#).

Families can also prepare their children for kindergarten using the resources available such as the [I'm Ready for K booklet](#) with the Nevada Pre-K standards and things that families can do at home. [This video](#) talks in-depth about the standards and what families can do to support their children.

Why does the date to enter kindergarten has changed?

During the 2021 Legislative Session, the amendment to NRS 392.040 stated that students entering kindergarten for the upcoming school year must be five years on or before the start of the school year. All school districts in the state need to follow this guidance starting next school year.