

## C. Age Requirements & Validation for Funding

### C-1. Age Requirements

The following table is a summary that defines the age limits necessary for a student to generate government funding.

Grade Range	Student Minimum Age	Student Maximum Age
<b>Preschool*</b>	3 years old or within 90 days of the student's third birthday with board approval ( <a href="#">A.R.S. § 15-771(G)</a> )	5 years old before Sept 1st, or 5 years old by Jan 1st with board approval
<b>Ungraded Elementary (UE)**</b>	5 years old before Sept 1st, or 5 years old by Jan 1st with board approval	5 years old
<b>Kindergarten</b>	5 years old before Sept 1st, or 5 years old by Jan 1st with board approval	
<b>Grades 1st – 12th grade</b>	6 years old before Sept 1st, or 6 years old by Jan 1st with board approval	Until 22 <sup>nd</sup> birthday  <b>Note:</b> If receiving SPED services, until the end of the fiscal year in which their 22 <sup>nd</sup> birthday resides. ( <a href="#">A.R.S. § 15-764</a> )

\*\* Ungraded Elementary must have at least one group B disability, an IEP that indicates the necessity for full-day programming and that the child is not classified as being in kindergarten.

#### C-1a. Early Kindergarten

The enrollment of children in early (pre-) kindergarten or early first-grade programs pertains to the inclusion of these children as kindergarten and first-grade students in the Average Daily Membership (ADM) data submitted to the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). Per Arizona Attorney General [Op. No. 100-023](#)

Only those programs designed according to state standards and district curriculum—specifically aimed at advancing a child to the first grade—are recognized as kindergarten programs for ADM calculations. Similarly, only programs designed to advance a child to the second grade based on state standards and district curriculum qualify as first-grade programs for ADM calculations. A school district or charter school may receive a portion of basic state aid during the second year of enrollment if an early Kindergarten pupil is enrolled and repeats Kindergarten the following year. Funding remains capped at 0.500 ADM over both years. As outlined in A.R.S. §15-901.

**Example:** An early Kindergarten student enrolled in FY2024 and then withdrew, generating 0.180 ADM. In FY2025, the student re-enrolled in kindergarten. The district or charter where the student re-enrolled is potentially eligible for a maximum of 0.320 ADM (0.500 – 0.180).

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**C-2. Exceptions to When a Child Must be Enrolled**

According to A.R.S. § 15-802(D), a person is excused from school attendance if any of the following are shown to the satisfaction of the school principal or the school principal's designee:

- The child is in such physical or mental condition that instruction is inexpedient or impracticable.
- The child has completed the high school course of study necessary for completion of grade ten as prescribed by the State Board of Education.
- The child has presented reasons for nonattendance that are satisfactory to the school principal or the school principal's designee.
- The child is over fourteen years of age and is with the consent of the person who has custody of him, employed at some lawful wage earning occupation.
- The child is enrolled in a work training, career education, career and technical education, vocational education or manual training program, which meets the educational standards, established and approved by the Department of Education.
- The child was suspended and not directed to participate in an alternative education program.
- The child is enrolled in an education program provided by a state educational or other institution.

See also (A.R.S. § 15-841(C) and (D)).