

## C. Age Requirements & Validation for Funding

### C-1. Age Requirements

The following table is a summary defining the upper and lower age limits necessary for a student to generate government funding.

Grade Range	Student Minimum Age	Student Maximum Age
Preschool*	3 years old or within 90 days of the student’s third birthday with board approval (A.R.S. § 15-771(G))	5 years old
Ungraded Elementary (UE)**	5 years old before Sept 1st, or 5 years old by Jan 1st with board approval	5 years old
Kindergarten	5 years old before Sept 1st, or 5 years old by Jan 1st with board approval	
Grades 1st – 12th grade	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.R.S. § 15-764)

\* Preschool must have 1(+) of the following services: HI, DD, VI, PSD, SLI

\*\* Ungraded Elementary must have a need, have an IEP, be receiving services, and be enrolled in a full time program of 712 hours per year.

#### C-1a. Early Kindergarten

On September 15, 2000, the Arizona Attorney General issued Opinion I00-023 regarding the practice of enrolling children in early (pre-) kindergarten or early first-grade programs and including those children as kindergarten and first-grade students, respectively, in the Average Daily Membership (ADM) data submitted to ADE. The Attorney General’s opinion clarified that only programs that are designed, based on state standards and district curriculum, to advance a child to the first grade are considered kindergarten programs for the purpose of calculating ADM as provided in A.R.S. §15-901. Likewise, the opinion clarified that only programs that are designed, based on state standards and district curriculum, to advance a child to the second grade are considered first-grade programs for the purpose of calculating ADM as described in A.R.S. §15-901.

Effective in FY2012, 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 (A.R.S. §15-901).

**Example:** An early Kindergarten student enrolled in FY2016 and then withdrew, generating 0.180 ADM. In FY2017, the student re-enrolled in Kindergarten. The district or charter in which the student re-enrolled is potentially eligible for a maximum of 0.320 ADM (0.500 – 0.180) in FY2017.

---

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

Pursuant 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)).