

Communication Plan:

For implementing a kindergarten entry cutoff date change

Isles District (SY2009-2010)

The following is a Isles District Communications Plan to implement a change for the kindergarten entry cutoff date from five years old by 31 Oct 2009 back to 1 Sep 2009. This will be effective for school registrations for SY2009-2010!

Elementary School Principals will...

- take local community opportunities, e.g., Town Hall Meetings, Open Houses, Parent Conferences, PTA Meetings, etc., to give advance notice to potential kindergarten parents of this change in policy, including the rationale for making this change;
- brief their local SAC and School Boards of this change during SY08-09 meetings, in preparation for SY09-10;
- brief and discuss this change with their staff;
- provide training for school secretaries, registrars, administrative staff, counselors, and kindergarten teachers on this new policy;
- brief local SLOs, Commanders, Child Development Centers of this new change;
- update their school's local web-page to clearly include this new kindergarten age requirement for SY09-10, and to provide links to research;
- update school registration forms, as needed;
- update school handbooks, as needed; and
- include this change in school newspapers, newsletters, e-mails, school informational brochures, etc., to parents.

Rationalization for this age requirement...

- Change in entrance age requirements will align DoDEA's "Cut-off" date with most of the other states in the country.
- Alignment with national trend eases transition challenges for younger children who may be at a developmental disadvantage.
- Addresses concerns by our educators that many children are too young to master an increasingly demanding kindergarten curriculum:
 - Research indicates benefits of having an earlier cut-off date for kindergarten.
 - Research reveals delaying kindergarten entrance is associated with a significant increase in math and reading scores at kindergarten entry.
- Change allows increased rigor in curriculum- more problem-solving; more interactions with reading materials and pre-reading and writing readiness activities.