



NEW LAWS

2009 WISCONSIN ACT 41

Assembly Bill 119

Effective Date: October 21, 2009

FIVE-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN ATTENDANCE AND FIRST GRADE ADMISSION

The new law requires a child who is enrolled in 5-year-old kindergarten in a public or private school to regularly attend kindergarten during the school year.

Beginning in the 2011-12 school year, with certain exceptions, this new law also requires a child to complete 5-year-old kindergarten as a prerequisite to being admitted to first grade in a public school, including a charter school.

Each school board that operates a 5-year-old kindergarten program shall adopt a written policy specifying the criteria for promoting a pupil from 5-year-old kindergarten to the first grade. Each school board that operates a 5-year-old kindergarten program also shall establish procedures, conditions, and standards for exempting a child from the requirement that the child complete kindergarten as a prerequisite to enrollment in the first grade and for reviewing the denial of an exemption upon the request of the pupil's parent or guardian.

The new law requires a school board and the operator of an independent charter school to enroll in first grade a child who has not completed kindergarten but is otherwise eligible to be enrolled in first grade if the child moves into Wisconsin from a state, country, or territory in which completion of kindergarten is not a prerequisite to entering first grade or if the child was exempted from the requirement to complete kindergarten in the state, country, or territory from which the child moved.