

Kindergarten FAQs

1. Can the age cut-off (turn 5 by July 31) be waived?

Response: No, there is no waiver as it is mandated in Hawaii State Law

(<http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ParentsAndStudents/GradeLevelOverview/Kindergarten/Pages/FAQs.aspx>).

2. Is kindergarten mandatory?

Response: Yes, public school kindergarten attendance is mandatory per Act 76 of the 2014 Hawaii State Legislature (http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2014/bills/SB2768_CD1_.htm) for children who turn 5 by July 31 of that school year unless "the child is enrolled at a private school or the child's attendance is otherwise exempt under section 302A-1132."

3. If I homeschool my late-born 5-year old this school year (SY), can my child then attend first grade for the next SY in Hawaii?

Response: No, as Hawaii State Law requires children who turn 5 by July 31 of that school year to attend kindergarten.

(<http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ParentsAndStudents/GradeLevelOverview/Kindergarten/Pages/FAQs.aspx>).

4. If I homeschool my late-born 5-year old for both kindergarten and the first grade, can I subsequently register him/her in the second grade?

Response: For grades one through eight, your homeschooled child "shall re-enroll at the appropriate grade level by birth date. For example, if the homeschooled child by birth date should be an eighth grader, then he/she is enrolled as an eighth grader."

(<http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/ParentsAndStudents/EnrollingInSchool/Choosingschool/Pages/Homeschooling-FAQs.aspx>).

5. If I elect to homeschool my late-born 5-year old for kindergarten and subsequently PCS from Hawaii before the next SY, can my child register for the first grade at my new location?

Response: The answer will depend on the laws/policies in your next state.

6. Does DoDEA have kindergarten and first grade age cut-off dates?

Response: Yes, a child must turn 5 before September 1 to attend a DoDEA kindergarten

([http://www.am.dodea.edu/ny_va/documents/KindEntrance%20Age%20FAQs%20May09\[1\].pdf](http://www.am.dodea.edu/ny_va/documents/KindEntrance%20Age%20FAQs%20May09[1].pdf)) and turn 6 by 1 September to attend a DoDEA first grade

(http://www.dodea.edu/Offices/Regulations/upload/08_ESPL_005.pdf).

7. My child attended kindergarten at a private school in another state in the previous school year. Is my child eligible for kindergarten in Hawaii in the current school year, even though he/she won't be 5 years old by July 31st? Would my child be eligible for first grade?

Response: No, as Hawaii State Law requires a child to turn 5 years old by July 31 that school year to enter kindergarten. The Interstate Compact only applies to public school students.

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