



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Region 4-A CALABARZON
Province of Quezon
DIVISION OF TAYABAS CITY
Tayabas City



DIVISION MEMORANDUM

No. 147, s. 2018

TO : CHIEFS EDUCATION PROGRAM SUPERVISOR, CID & SGOD
: HEADS, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND
SECONDARY SCHOOLS
: ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

FROM : CATHERINE P. TALAVERA, CESO VI
Schools Division Superintendent

SUBJECT : DISSEMINATION OF DEPED ORDER NO. 20, S. 2018

DATE : May 29, 2018

The Department of Education issues DepEd Order No. 20, s. 2018 clarifying that the cut-off age policy is applicable to both public and private schools to accommodate Kinder and Grade One enrollees for School Year 2018-2019 and SY 2019-2020.

Attached herewith are DepEd Order No. 20, s. 2018 and FAQs – Kindergarten for the information and guidance of all concerned.

Immediate dissemination of and strict compliance to this Order is directed.

SGOD-Planning Unit/ Dissemination of DepEd Order No. 20, s. 2018

DM 147 /05/28/19



division where excellence is a habit and allegiance for quality is a pledge.

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education

19 APR 2018

DepEd ORDER
No. 020 s. 2018

**AMENDMENT TO DEPED ORDER NO. 47, S. 2016, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"OMNIBUS POLICY ON KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION," CLARIFYING THAT THE
CUT-OFF AGE POLICY IS APPLICABLE TO BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS
AND PROVIDING FOR TRANSITORY PROVISIONS TO ACCOMMODATE KINDER
AND GRADE ONE ENROLLEES FOR SY 2018-2019 AND SY 2019-2020 WHO MAY
BE AFFECTED BY THIS POLICY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

To: Undersecretaries
Assistant Secretaries
Bureau and Service Directors
Regional Directors
Schools Division Superintendents
Public and Private Kindergarten and Elementary School Heads
All Others Concerned

1. Republic Act No. (RA) 10157, or the *Kindergarten Education Act of 2012*, declares that it shall be the policy of the State to provide equal opportunities for all children to avail of accessible mandatory and compulsory kindergarten education.
2. RA 10157 and RA 10533, or the *Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013*, provide that kindergarten education shall mean "one year of preparatory education for children at least five (5) years old as a prerequisite for Grade 1."
3. The Department of Education (DepEd) is vested, under RA 10157, with the authority to regulate the organization, operation and/or implementation of the kindergarten education program of both public and private schools. The DepEd is further charged with the function to oversee and supervise the organization, operation and implementation of the kindergarten education program and exercise authority over the operation of private kindergarten institutions.
4. The kindergarten curriculum is designed to respond to the holistic developmental needs of five (5) year old learners along socio-emotional, values, physical health and motor, aesthetic/creative, mathematics, understanding of the physical and natural environment, language, literacy, and communication. Moreover, the first quarter of the curriculum is designed to strengthen the learners' preparation to meet the Kindergarten learning standards.
5. In view of the foregoing considerations, the Department hereby issues this Order clarifying the applicability of DepEd Order No. 47, s. 2016, or the *Omnibus Policy on Kindergarten Education*, to both public and private schools, thereby amending said Order to read as follows:

- A. Item VI.15.A of the enclosure to DepEd Order No. 47, s. 2016 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"VI. Enrolment Procedures

15. All Regional Directors, Schools Division Superintendents, and School Heads of both public and private schools are directed to accept children in accordance with the following guidelines:

- A. Age qualification for Kindergarten learners in **both public and private schools** should be five (5) years old by June 1 of every calendar year. However, the school may consider learners entering Kindergarten who will turn five (5) years old by the end of August on the condition that the **Philippine Early Childhood Development (ECD) Checklist must be administered to the learner** prior to the start of the opening of the school year, to ensure that the learner is capable of meeting the expectations of the grade level. Parents may provide documentation and/or certification of the learner's previous Early Childhood Education (ECE) experiences (i.e., preschool, day care, pre-Kindergarten) in addition to the results of the Philippine ECD Checklist.

For schools commencing their school year beyond June, the requirement that Kindergarten learners should be five (5) years old by June 1 and the extension period ending on August 31 shall be adjusted. For schools commencing their school year in July, Kindergarten learners should be five (5) years old by July 1 and the extension period shall be until September 30. For schools commencing their school year in August, Kindergarten learners should be five (5) years old by August 1 and the extension period shall be until October 31."

- B. To recognize the right of private schools to impose additional requirements that are consistent with existing laws, rules and regulations, a new Item VI.15.E is hereby added to the enclosure to DepEd Order No. 47, s. 2016, which shall read as follows:

"E. Private schools may impose special or additional admission requirements that are consistent with their right to operate as a private school as provided for under existing laws, rules and regulations. Such additional requirements may include, but not limited to the following:

- i. passing of an entrance or qualifying examination;
- ii. completing an additional pre-kindergarten program at an earlier age;
- iii. passing other kindergarten readiness tools that such private schools may administer; and
- iv. such other requirements that private schools may impose not contrary to existing laws, rules and regulations to maintain such private schools' standards."

- C. To accommodate Kinder and Grade One enrollees in both public and private schools for School Year (SY) 2018-2019 and SY 2019-2020 who may be affected by this policy, the following transitory provisions are herein provided:

(1) **For SY 2018-2019:**

- i. Learners who completed Kindergarten during SY 2017-2018 can enroll in Grade I, provided that they turned five (5) years old within SY 2017-2018;
- ii. Learners who will turn five (5) years old within SY 2018-2019 can be accepted to Kindergarten provided they pass the Philippine Early Childhood Development (ECD) checklist.

(2) **For SY 2019-2020:**

- i. Learners who completed Kindergarten during SY 2018-2019 can enroll in Grade I, provided that they turn five (5) years old within SY 2018-2019 when they complete Kindergarten;
- ii. Incoming Kindergarten must strictly comply with the cut-off age policy stated in DO No. 47, s. 2016, as amended by this DepEd Order.

(3) **For SY 2020-2021**

Both incoming Kindergarten and Grade 1 learners shall strictly comply with the policy as stated under Item VI.15.A of the enclosure to DepEd Order No. 47, s. 2016, as amended by this DepEd Order.

6. DepEd Order No. 47, s. 2016, Memorandum No. DM-CI-2017-00454 dated 11 December 2017 entitled *Clarificatory Guidelines on the Provisions of DepEd Order No. 47, s. 2016 "Omnibus Policy on Kindergarten Education"*, DepEd Order No. 3, s. 2018, and all other DepEd Orders, rules, regulations, issuances, which are inconsistent with this Order, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

7. These guidelines shall take effect immediately.

8. Immediate dissemination of and strict compliance with this Order is directed.


LEONOR MAGTOLIS BRIONES
Secretary

References:

DepEd Order (No. 47, s. 2016; No. 3, s. 2018)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

ADMISSION
ENROLLMENT
KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION
LEARNERS
POLICY
STRAND: Curriculum and Instruction

FAQs - Kindergarten



1. What is the cut-off age for Kindergarten?

- As per DepEd order No. 20, s. 2018, the learner should be at least five (5) years old by June 1 of every calendar year to be able to enroll in Kindergarten.

2. How do we accommodate enrollees affected by the cut-off age?

For affected learners in Kindergarten and Grade 1 in both **public** and **private schools** consistent with the school opening in **Item VI.15.A** of DO No. 20, s. 2018, the following are transitory provisions :

Kindergarten Learners

For SY 2018-2019:

- Learners who will turn five (5) years old within SY 2018-2019 can be accepted in Kindergarten, provided they pass the Philippine Early Childhood Development (ECD) Checklist.

For SY 2019-2020:

- Incoming Kindergarten must strictly comply with the cutoff age policy stated in DO No. 47, s. 2016, as amended by DO No. 20, s. 2018.

Grade I Learners

For SY 2018-2019:

- Learners who completed Kindergarten during the SY 2017-2018 can enroll in Grade 1, provided that they turned five (5) years old within SY 2017-2018.

For SY 2019-2020:

- Learners who completed Kindergarten during SY 2018-2019 can enroll in Grade 1, provided that they turn five (5) years old within SY 2018-2019 when they complete Kindergarten.

Kindergarten and Grade 1 Learners

For SY 2020-2021:

- Both incoming Kindergarten and Grade 1 learners shall strictly comply with the policy as stated under Item VI.15.A of the DepEd Order No. 20, s. 2018.

3. Who are eligible as Grade 1 learners?

- The standard eligibility for Grade 1 enrollees are those Kindergarten completers with Learner Reference Number (LRN) from all public and accredited private schools and other DepEd-recognized learning centers/ church-based institutions. These learners are automatically enrolled in Grade 1 regardless of cut-off age.

4. What are the documentary requirements to enroll in Kindergarten?

The documents needed are:

- birth certificate
- ECD record from day care centers/learning centers, etc.

For other details, please refer to DepEd Order No. 3, s. 2018.

5. What is meant by "pass" in the Philippine Early Childhood Development (ECD) Checklist?

- For learners who will turn five (5) years old within SY 2018-2019 means that the learners are able to demonstrate adequate skill at a certain age indicated in the Core

Developmental Milestones of Filipino Children of the said checklist.

- The teacher and the school head in consultation with the parents or guardian, shall determine developmental interventions for the kindergarten learners within the school year.

6. What is the Phil. ECD Assessment?

- This is an assessment tool to determine the child's growth and development.
- All incoming Kindergarten learners in both public and private (DepEd recognized schools/learning centers/ church-based) institutions shall undergo assessment prior to the opening of classes and end of school year.

7. Who will administer the Phil. ECD?

- **Trained kindergarten teachers and guidance counselors** using the complete set of materials (manual, child record form 2 and the assessment materials).

8. How often will the teacher administer the Phil. ECD?

- Phil. ECD shall be administered prior to the opening of classes and end of the school year. During the mid-year, teachers shall closely monitor and plan appropriate intervention if the skills are not yet present during the initial assessment.

9. Can other assessment tools be used by private schools?

- Yes, as long as the school will determine the Kindergarten learning needs as basis for provision of appropriate and responsive intervention for the learners.

10. With the K to 12 program, should schools prepare permanent records for Kindergarten learners?

- Yes, DepEd Order No. 47, s. 2016 specifically discussed all assessment mechanisms appropriate for kindergarten learners. The prescribed Progress Report will serve as the basis for the Kindergarten permanent record.



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"Don't rush kids into academic learning before ages six or seven. It's a waste of their precious time. Child development moves at the pace of evolution. Accept its natural pace; don't try to accelerate it. Playing ball, blocks and dress up is exactly what your child needs to do, learning in her own time, at her own rate. Young kids need ample time to explore and play: their brains and emotional health depend on it". **-Heather Shumaker (ECD advocate & book author)**