



Republic of the Philippines

# Department of Education

UNDERSECRETARY FOR CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

## MEMORANDUM DM-CI-2020-00223

FOR : **JESUS L. R. MATEO**  
Undersecretary

FROM : **DIOSDADO M. SAN ANTONIO**  
Undersecretary for Curriculum and Instruction

SUBJECT : **Clarification on the Existing Policies on the Cut-off Age in Kindergarten and the Qualifications for Admission to Grade 1 for School Year 2020-2021**

DATE : 20 August 2020

This is in response to the Memorandum received by this Office, dated July 22, 2020, requesting clarifications on the Cut-off Age in Kindergarten and the Qualifications for Admission to Grade 1 for School Year 2020-2021. This Office strictly adheres to the existing policies as provided for in DepEd Order 47, s. 2016 as amended by DepEd Order No. 20, with the following provisions that apply to both public and private schools:

“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 school 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.**”

Furthermore, as provided for in DO 20, s. 2018 item C.2. ii. and 3, specific transitory provisions are cited as follows:

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

- 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 (DO 20, s. 2018).

The aforesaid guidelines are reiterated in DM-CI-2020-00080 entitled “Reiterating the Age Qualification of Kindergarten Learner as provided for in DepEd Order No. 20, s. 2020 and Guidelines on the Administration of the Philippine ECD Checklist for SY 2020-2021 in the light of COVID-19 Pandemic.”

This means that any child, who is not yet 5 years old by 31 October of the school year cannot be enrolled in Kindergarten, if the school adopts an August opening of classes. If the school opens classes in June or July of that year, only children turning 5 years old by August 31 or September 30 of the year, respectively, are accepted for enrollment and be officially registered in the LIS.

For SY 2020-2021, the official opening of classes as provided for in DepEd Order No. 07, s. 2020 is August 24, 2020 and it was only postponed on October 5 of this year in response to the implications of imposition of Modified Enhanced Community Quarantine (MECQ) in Metro Manila and in the provinces of Cavite, Bulacan, Laguna and Rizal.

This Office also emphasizes the provisions of **Republic Act No. 10533** or the “**Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013**” and **Section 3.c of the Republic Act No. 10157 “Kindergarten Education Act of 2012”** that declare Kindergarten as mandatory and compulsory basic education ladder which shall mean one (1) year of preparatory education for children at least five (5) years old as prerequisite for Grade I.