June 3, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Philip C. Cleveland
Interim State Superintendent of Education

RE: First Grade Enrollment Date

On May 10, 2016, Governor Robert Bentley signed into law Alabama Act #2016-297. Beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, the Act requires local education agencies to allow a child who is six years of age on or before December 31 to enroll in first grade. This extends the timeframe from the current date of on or before September 1 for first grade only. It does NOT extend the timeframe for enrollment in kindergarten.

Act #2016-297 amends the Alabama Code (1975), §16-28-4, minimum age for admission to first grade – a child who is 6 years of age on or before September 1 or the date on which school begins in the enrolling school system shall be entitled to admission to the public elementary schools at the opening of such schools for that school year or as soon as practical thereafter.

If you need clarification or have questions, please contact Dr. Kay Warfield, Education Administrator, or Dr. Marilyn Lewis, Program Coordinator for Prevention and Support Services, by telephone at 334-242-8165 or by e-mail at kaw@alsde.edu or mlewis@alsde.edu.

PCC/ML/KM

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