



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Philip C. Cleveland, Ed.D.
Interim State Superintendent
of Education

June 3, 2016

Alabama
State Board
of Education

MEMORANDUM

Governor
Robert Bentley
President

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

Matthew S. Brown, J.D.
District I

FROM: Philip C. Cleveland *PCC*
Interim State Superintendent of Education

Betty Peters
District II

RE: First Grade Enrollment Date

Stephanie Bell
District III

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.

Yvette M.
Richardson, Ed.D.
District IV
President Pro Tem

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.

Ella B. Bell
District V

Cynthia McCarty, Ph.D.
District VI

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.

Jeff Newman
District VII
Vice President

PCC/ML/KM

Mary Scott Hunter, J.D.
District VIII

FY16-2065

Philip C. Cleveland, Ed.D.
Interim Secretary and
Executive Officer