



## CHANGES TO THE EARLY ENTRY PROVISIONS FOR THE PREP YEAR

### What are the recent legislative changes?

Recent changes to the *Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2006* have changed the way that Principals may respond to parents' requests to enrol a child in Prep who is younger than the minimum age. These changes apply from 28 November 2014.

### At what age are children eligible to attend Prep?

All Queensland children are eligible to attend full-time Prep from the beginning of the school year in which they will reach the age of **5 years on or before 30 June**. This is the earliest age that a child may be enrolled in Prep. Please note that Prep is not a compulsory year of education. The legislated age for compulsory attendance at school is when the child is at least 6 years and 6 months and less than 16 years of age [section 9 of the *Education (General Provisions) Act 2006*].

### When is early entry to Prep an option?

There are **only 2 options** for an early entry into Prep.

- Children who are younger than the prescribed age for Prep may be enrolled in Prep if:
  - they turn **5 years on or before 31 July** in the year of proposed attendance; **and**
  - the Principal is satisfied the child is ready for education in Prep, having considered the **child's attributes**.

The attributes to be referred to are set out in the definition section as meaning, the child's:

- Aptitude and ability; and
- Social and emotional competence; and
- Physical development; and
- Level of knowledge and understanding.

- The legislation continues to allow a Principal to enrol a child in Prep who is younger than the prescribed age if the child:
  - has previously started education that is equivalent to Prep in another state or country; **and**
  - is considered ready for education in Prep, having regard to their attributes, as outlined above.

The table below sets out the normal range for Prep birth dates and the possible birth date ranges for the Early Entry into Prep provisions.

### Birth dates and Prep enrolment

Child Born	2015	2016	2017
1/7/2009 to 30/6/2010	Prep <i>Possible Early entry 1– 31 July 2010</i>	Year 1	Year 2
1/7/2010 to 30/6/2011	Kindy	Prep <i>Possible Early entry 1– 31 July 2011</i>	Year 1
1/7/2011 to 30/6/2012		Kindy	Prep <i>Possible Early entry 1– 31 July 2012</i>

### MORE INFORMATION OR ADVICE

This advice is provided with the acknowledgment that not all the facts of the situation are known to Independent Schools Queensland. Independent Schools Queensland is able to provide more detailed advice upon request.

#### Contact Us

For further information or if you have any questions please contact ISQ PH 32281515