

Early Childhood Services

Age of Funding Eligibility Change

School Amendment Act, 2017 and Age of Funding Eligibility Change

The *School Amendment Act, 2017* established a common age of entry to Kindergarten, requiring children to be at least 5 years of age by December 31 of the school year. This comes into effect for the 2020/21 school year.

To ensure alignment through the Early Childhood Services (ECS) system, the age of funding eligibility for specific groups of children will be changed starting in the 2018/19 school year. This ensures all children within the ECS system meet the requirement of being 5 years of age by December 31, 2020 to attend Kindergarten.

Alberta Education will implement a phased-in approach for ECS funding eligibility from 2018/19 to 2020/21 as outlined below:

Funding Manual Year	Category of Funding ECS Children Group(s)	Change Required to Minimum Age at September 1
2018/19	ECS child with a severe disability/delay	From 2 years 6 months to 2 years 8 months
2019/20	ECS child: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• with a mild/moderate disability;• with English as a Second Language (ESL) needs;• with Francisation needs; and/or• who is gifted and talented.	From 3 years 6 months to 3 years 8 months
2020/21	Kindergarten child	From 4 years 6 months to 4 years 8 months

These changes mean that as of September 1, 2018, children must be at least 2 years 8 months of age to be eligible for Program Unit Funding (PUF). Also, as of September 1, 2019, children must be at least 3 years, 8 months of age to be eligible for mild/moderate disability, gifted and talented, English as a second language and/or Francisation funding. These changes will ensure children meet the age requirement when they enter Kindergarten in September 2020.

For more information, please see Section 1.5 of the [Funding Manual for School Authorities – 2018/19 School Year](#).

For questions or further assistance, please contact Daimen Tan, Director, School Finance Branch at daimen.tan@gov.ab.ca or 780-422-0865.