

HB 674 -- KINDERGARTEN IN ST. LOUIS AND KANSAS CITY

SPONSOR: Montecillo

Beginning in the 2016-17 school year, in the St. Louis Public School District and the Kansas City Public School District, every child whose parent, or guardian intends to enroll him or her in a public, private, parochial, parish school, or full-time equivalent attendance in a combination of schools must be evaluated by the school district of residence for a kindergarten assessment in the summer immediately preceding the school year in which the child is eligible for kindergarten. If the district determines that the child's appropriate placement is in kindergarten for the upcoming school year, the parent or guardian must enroll him or her in kindergarten. If the school district determines that kindergarten is not the appropriate placement for the child at the time of evaluation, the child's parent or guardian must instead enroll the child in an early childhood education program in order to prepare him or her for kindergarten entry in the subsequent school year.

No later than November 1, 2018, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education must report to the Joint Committee on Education on any effects of the academic performance of the districts affected by these provisions that may be attributed to the lowering of the mandatory age of enrollment.

These provisions will automatically sunset after six years.