



**GOVERNING BOARD AGENDA ITEM  
AMPHITHEATER UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10**

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**DATE OF MEETING:**      **April 5, 2016**

**TITLE:**      **Study of Revisions to Governing Board Policy JEB Regarding Entrance Age Requirements for Special Needs Preschool, Kindergarten and First Grade**

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**BACKGROUND:**

Arizona law sets restrictions on the enrollment age for students for special needs preschool programs, Kindergarten and First Grade. See, A.R.S. § 15-821. The law provides that students may be admitted to Kindergarten students if they are five years of age, and the same law deems a child to be five years of age if the child reaches the age of five before September 1 of the current school year of enrollment.

The law also specifies that a child is eligible for admission to first grade if the child is six years of age, which is deemed to be the case if the child is six years of age before September 1 of the current school year of enrollment.

The Governing Board of each school district is given discretion under the law to admit children not reaching the required age(s) by September 1, if it is determined to be in the best interest of the children. Such determinations must be based upon one or more consultations with the parent(s), guardian(s), the child, the teacher and the school principal. In addition, the child must reach the required age of five for kindergarten and six for first grade by January 1 of the current school year enrollment.

Existing Governing Board Policy JEB is consistent with Arizona law, but has been confusing to parents and staff. A proposed revision (attached) would separate each grade level for specific discussion, with the intention of providing greater clarity and relevance to specific inquiries.

It was also appropriate to include other terms of law into the policy, such as the limitation on state funding to only one year of Kindergarten, where a child who was admitted early to Kindergarten is subsequently retained in Kindergarten the following year.

The revised policy would also now direct the Superintendent to have procedures for determinations of early admission that include the consultations required by law.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is presented for its initial study at this time, and no action is required.

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**INITIATED BY:**

**Todd A. Jaeger, Associate to the Superintendent**

**Date: March 31, 2016**

**Patrick Nelson, Superintendent**