
School board packet

1 message

Kara Rodrigues <krodrigues@cordovasd.org>
To: CSD School Board <csd_board@cordovasd.org>

Fri, Sep 5, 2025 at 3:06 PM

To the Members of the School Board,

I am writing to express concern regarding the proposed change to lower the compulsory school age from 7 to 5 years old.

While I understand the intention to provide earlier access to education, I believe this change may have unintended consequences for many children—particularly those with late summer birthdays. It is widely encouraged, even among early childhood educators and pediatricians, for children with birthdays in late July and August to begin kindergarten at age 6 rather than 5. This allows additional time for emotional, social, and cognitive development—factors that are critical to a child's long-term academic success and confidence.

There is also substantial research indicating that younger children in a kindergarten class—especially boys—are more likely to be diagnosed with ADHD compared to their older peers. This raises concerns about the developmental readiness of younger five-year-olds and the potential for mislabeling typical age-related behavior as a disorder.

As a parent and advocate for developmentally appropriate education, I personally encourage families with late summer birthdays to consider waiting a year if they feel their child may not be ready. A universal compulsory start age of 5 would remove that important choice.

If the board feels strongly that earlier enrollment is necessary, I would suggest instead reconsidering the school age cutoff date. Moving the cutoff from September 1st to July 1st would better align classroom cohorts developmentally and help reduce the age gap and disparities seen in early childhood classrooms.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this issue. I respectfully urge the board to weigh the developmental readiness of all children, not just their chronological age, when making decisions that affect their earliest educational experiences.

Sincerely,

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Kara Rodrigues
Kindergarten Teacher
Mt. Eccles Elementary

