

# Black Oak Mine Unified School District

All students will be healthy, responsible, productive citizens, skilled workers, lifelong learners and contributors to their local and world communities.



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Director, Educational Services  
Drew Woodall

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January 28, 2012

Dear Parents:

This letter contains some important information about our Transitional Kindergarten program (formerly called "Prep K or Preparatory Kindergarten") in addition to changes in Kindergarten age requirements.

For many years, the law has been that students must turn 5 on or before December 2 in order to attend Kindergarten. That law has changed. Over the next three years, that beginning date will be progressively *earlier*, as shown below:

#### **New Kindergarten Age Requirements Beginning in 2012-13:**

- For the upcoming **2012-13** school year, a child must turn 5 **on or before** November 1, 2012.
- For the **2013-14** school year: A child must turn 5 **on or before** October 1, 2013.
- For the 2014-15 school year (and each year thereafter): A child must turn 5 **on or before** September 1, 2014.

The law also requires that districts offer a **Transitional Kindergarten** program for students whose birthday falls *between* the new date and December 2<sup>nd</sup> of that school year.

The Black Oak Mine Unified School District already offers a Transitional/Preparatory Kindergarten program that meets the requirements of this provision. Students whose birthdate falls between the following dates for the associated school year will be eligible to enroll in Transitional-Preparatory Kindergarten:

- For the 2012-13 school year: Child turns 5 between Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> and Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>
- For the 2013-14 school year: Child turns 5 between Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> and Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>
- For the 2014-15 school year: Child turns 5 between Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> and Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>

In addition, the District will continue to offer Transitional-Preparatory Kindergarten to eligible students with fifth birthdays in the late summer/fall months (even if they are old enough for kindergarten). The program is offered on a case-by-case basis. The District takes into consideration the developmental level of the student in making placement decisions.

For our first three years of the Black Oak Mine Transitional-Preparatory Kindergarten, we have been able to place every student whose parents requested this option. We anticipate, going forward, to continue to honor most, if not all, placement requests.

Also, if your child will turn 5 after December 2<sup>nd</sup>, you may still place your child's name on a list to be enrolled in Transitional -Preparatory Kindergarten as soon as they turn 5. Again, on a case-by-case basis, they will be placed if space is available.

Please see the Black Oak Mine School District website - [www.bomusd.org](http://www.bomusd.org) or the Divide Ready by 5 website [www.dividereadyby5.org](http://www.dividereadyby5.org), or contact me for more information.

Drew Woodall, [dwoodall@bomusd.org](mailto:dwoodall@bomusd.org) or 530-333-8300.

Sincerely,

Drew Woodall