
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: GOVERNOR
FROM: RILEY
SUBJECT: SB 2394
DATE: 3/12/2003
CC: FILE

SB 2394

SB 2394 amends current law to provide that the definition of “compulsory-school-aged child” includes any child who turns 5 on or before September 1 and who has enrolled in a full-day public school kindergarten program. SB 2394 does not make kindergarten mandatory. It simply provides that enrolled kindergarteners are subject to attendance laws. SB 2394 also allows parents to disenroll enrolled kindergarteners one time without the child being deemed a compulsory-school-age child until that child turns 6.

MDE supports this bill. Steve Williams said that the department hopes this will correct the problem of kindergarteners attending class sporadically and parents not sending them due to personal trips, kids not wanting to go, etc.

MAE also supports the bill. Terri Lynn said that some first graders who enrolled in kindergarten but didn’t attend on a regular basis, are not as prepared with the basic skills that other classmates who attended kindergarten on a regular basis are and that first grade teachers have to work as much with these students as with those who didn’t attend kindergarten.

SB 2394 is effective July 1, 2003.

Sign it.