



March 14, 2012

Wexford-Missaukee Intermediate School District Members of the Senate Education Committee

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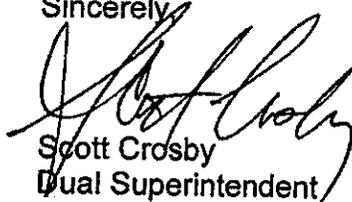
This letter to convey my support for progressively changing the Kindergarten age appropriate starting date. A three year phase in process beginning in the 2012-13 school year with a November 1 date, moving in the 2013-14 school year to an October 1 date, and then finally moving to a September 1 date for the 2014-15 school year will move Michigan to be consistent with the majority of states in the country, and more importantly, it will provide for improved student success.

Changing the appropriate starting date should not be limiting to those students who are developmentally ready for Kindergarten. For those students who can demonstrate readiness for Kindergarten they should be accepted into school on an individual basis. Children develop on an individual basis, and for school readiness, we must also allow entrance into our K-12 system for children who are ready to learn. I would urge the state to establish a process that would allow children who are developmentally ready for Kindergarten to enter our K-12 school systems.

Lastly, while establishing a start date for Kindergarten is a policy issue, it also has other Educational and financial implications. Children unable to enter Kindergarten need to have access to quality pre-school programs to assist in their development. Any state savings recognized by changing the entrance date of Kindergarten should be invested into Early Childhood Education in the form of additional state funded pre-school programming.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Scott Crosby
Dual Superintendent

Wexford-Missaukee and Manistee ISD's