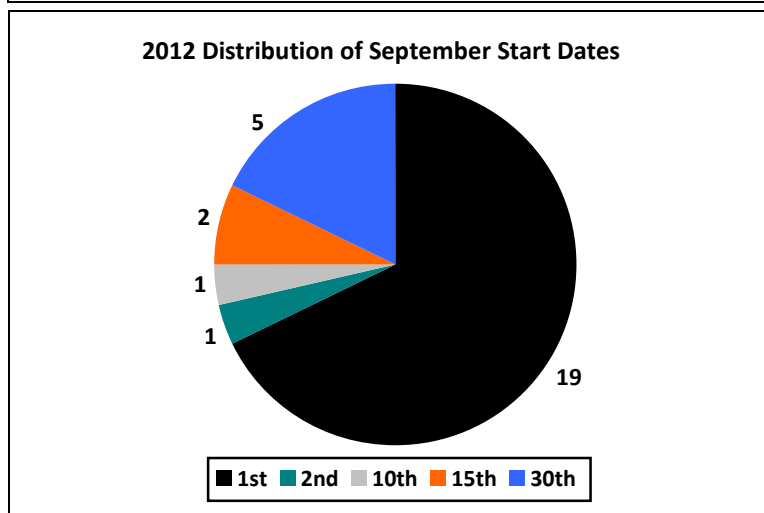
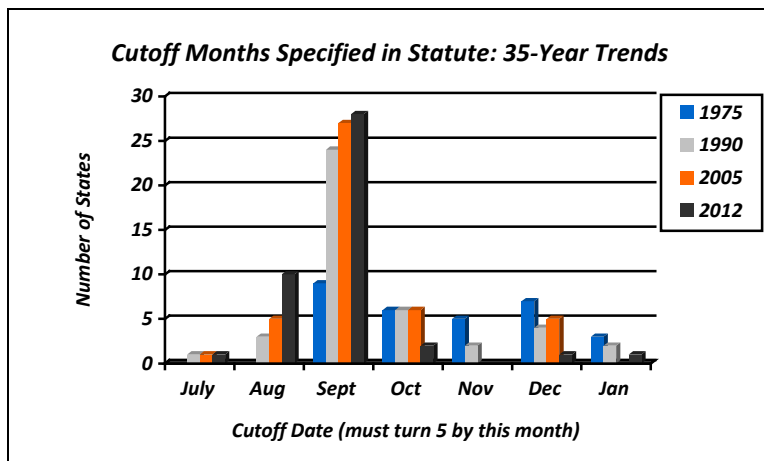


Kindergarten Entrance Ages: Highlights

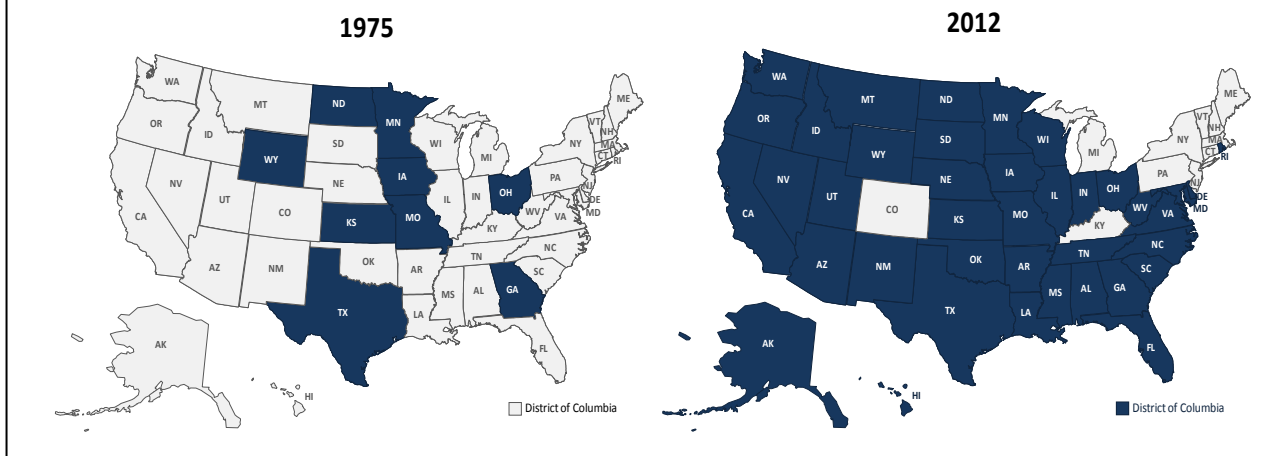
January 2012

Over the past 35 years, state policy has increasingly supported a kindergarten entrance date of September or earlier. The charts below show:

- The 35-year trend for policy adoption by month
- The current popularity of specific cutoff dates within the month of September
- Which states have adopted a September or earlier start date since 1975.



States with a September (or earlier) Cutoff Date Shaded in Blue:



Notes:

1. Eight States currently allow determination of kindergarten entrance age at the Local Education Agency (LEA) level: Colorado, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio (August 1 or September 30), Pennsylvania and Vermont (between 8/31 and 1/01).
2. California is phasing in an earlier cutoff age. A child must be 5 by 12/02 in 2011-12 year, 5 by 11/01 in 2012-13 year, 5 by 10/01 in 2013-14 year, 5 by 9/01 in 2014-15 year and thereafter.
3. Kindergarten entrance age is 5 by 9/30 in Louisiana, except for Orleans Parish, Louisiana School District where entrance age is 5 by 12/30.
4. In Michigan, the kindergarten entrance age is 5 by 12/1, although if a school district has semiannual promotions, a child may enroll in kindergarten for the 2nd semester if he is at least 5 on 3/01 of the school year.
5. In Missouri, the kindergarten entrance age is 5 by 8/1, except for metropolitan districts in which a child must be 5 on or before any date between 8/1 and 10/1.
6. Nebraska's kindergarten cutoff date was previously 10/15, but has been moved to 7/31 beginning in the 2012-13 school year.
7. In Ohio, districts may choose to set the kindergarten entrance age-5 cut-off date for August 1 or September 30.

Resources:

Kindergarten Entrance Ages: A 35 Year Trend Analysis, Education Commission of the States, updated May 2011, <http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/93/61/9361.pdf>.

ECS State Policy Database, <http://www.ecs.org/ecs/ecscat.nsf/WebTopicView?OpenView&count=-1&RestrictToCategory=P-3+PreK-3--Kindergarten>.

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