

# Should the Age be Lowered for Compulsory Education?

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4th period Grammar

A recent debate has sprouted up questioning the law that states children legally do not have to go to school until they are 5 years of age. Some say that children should have to attend preschool before going to kindergarten. Lowering the CSA (Compulsory School Attendance) age would be stressful and overwhelming for kids and their parents. It would also cause many difficulties for the school programs and their employees.

One reason is that young children from 3 to 6 are all born with different minds that are unique to them. Some kids' abilities develop slower than others, causing remediation, or students getting held back. Lowering the school age would cause even more of that. A study by Stanford and Berkeley universities in 2005 found that "The suppression of social and emotional development, stemming from long hours in preschool, is felt most strongly by children being held back," said UC Berkeley sociologist Bruce Fuller in a press release (Sparks Tribune 2017).

Another reason the age should not be lowered is that when kids are entered into school earlier, they might also have emotional setbacks. Some might say it is good for children to have an early social life through school, but that is incorrect. The same Berkeley study said that pre-kindergarten education actually "hinders social development and creates poor social behavior, such as bullying, aggression, and a lack of motivation to take part in classroom activities," (Sparks Tribune 2017).

One more thing that contributes to not lowering the required age for schooling is expenses for parents and school programs. A study conducted by President Obama in 2012 said that lowering the CSA age would cost between \$352 million and \$420 million for states the size of Nevada. (Whitfield 2012). Another study conducted by Russ Whitehurst said that "schools paying for the lowering of the CSA will not have a respectable pay for teachers and administrators,"

(Whitehurst 2012). Also, parents may not have enough money for their child to go to an extra year of school, and might face fines or even jail as a punishment!

In conclusion, lowering the CSA age would not have a positive effect on children, parents, teachers, or the school board themselves. It would increase the remediation number and decrease the number of children that want to be sitting in a school building. It could send parents to jail for not sending their children to school. So the school board shouldn't spend millions of dollars on something that wouldn't work.

# Bibliography

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