

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 23, 2009
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## **Kyrene Halts Kindergarten Early Entrance Process**

Due to budget challenges, legislators are discussing the possibility of eliminating funding for Kindergarten early entrance age exceptions across our state. Therefore, Kyrene Elementary School District is postponing the start date of our annual early entrance screening process.

In the past, Kyrene Elementary School District and many other districts offered children who turned five between September 1 and December 31 an early entrance age exception if it was determined to be in their best interest.

Earlier this year, Kyrene advertised parent informational meetings would be held on the following dates. These meetings have been cancelled.

- February 26, 2009
- March 25, 2009
- May 13, 2009
- July 23, 2009

Should the Arizona Legislature approve a budget that includes funding for this program, we will immediately begin our annual screening process.

In order to assist us in determining our level of community interest, those interested in Kindergarten Early Entrance are asked to go to [www.kyrene.org/earlyentrance.htm](http://www.kyrene.org/earlyentrance.htm), fill out a form and return it to the front office of any Kyrene Elementary School. In the event that state funding is provided, Kyrene will then contact interested families.

There are other early childhood options to consider for children at this age. Kyrene offers Preschool, Montessori, and Early Learning Centers. For information on these programs, go to [www.kyrene.org/aboutksd/Preschool.htm](http://www.kyrene.org/aboutksd/Preschool.htm) or call the Kyrene customer service center at 480-783-7314.