

# PROCEDURE: SCHOOL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

## FOOD AT ELEMENTARY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS IN THE GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

August 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of Greenwich Public School Students:

A child's birthday can be a very special day, at home and at school. Traditionally in elementary schools in Greenwich, parents have helped their children celebrate their birthdays by bringing in cupcakes or other food items for the class. However, given the increasing number of children whose access to food is limited by allergies, dietary restrictions, custom or religious affiliation, food at birthday celebrations has led to exclusion for some students rather than inclusion. In an effort to make a child's birthday an inclusive celebration for his/her classmates, beginning with the 2016-2017 school year, food is not permitted at any classroom birthday celebrations.

**Effective August 31, 2016, there is no outside food permitted for classroom birthday celebrations.** In keeping with the goals of our Wellness and Food Allergy policies, outside foods (cupcakes, candy, etc) are **NOT** permitted for classroom birthday celebrations. Each child's birthday may be recognized in school, but only with non-food items or activities. The school administrators have consulted with the representatives of the PTA, and determined how birthdays will be celebrated in the classroom. *At (Insert School Name), we will (Insert celebration procedure— Example: celebrate birthdays by announcing each child's name during morning announcements. Students will then come down to the office and have their picture taken with the principal and/or assistant principal. The picture will go home in a custom XYZ School birthday card. Please note, weekend birthdays will be announced on the Friday prior and summer birthdays will be announced before we leave for summer recess in June. Parents have the option of coming in and reading a book to the class on their child's birthday **IF** it has been pre-arranged with the child's homeroom teacher. If you elect to come in to read, please remember you **cannot** bring in any birthday gifts or treats for the class. We appreciate your anticipated cooperation with adhering to our practice.*

The goal of this decision is not to diminish the joy and excitement of a birthday, but to celebrate in a way that sends the message of inclusion, belonging and respect for all.

I am confident that we can work together to make all our birthday celebrations great fun and make your child's birthday very special.

Best,

(Insert Name)  
Principal  
(Insert School)