

Kindergarten Entrance Age Change ~ Fall 2024

The Connecticut General Assembly voted to change the entrance age requirement for kindergarten beginning in the 2024-2025 school year. Next year, students must turn five *on or before* September 1, 2024 to enroll in Kindergarten. This change in the law, which moves the cutoff date from January 1 to September 1, aims to ensure all children are developmentally ready to enter kindergarten and brings Connecticut's entrance age requirement in line with the majority of other states. In Stonington, we understand this could negatively impact families planning to enroll their four-year-old student(s) in Kindergarten in the fall of 2024.

Those students turning five from 9/2 to 1/1 will be eligible for an appeal for entry. Details of the appeal process are still being developed, but the appeal *may* include a written request by the parent, an assessment conducted by the district, and other information including input from preschool providers. Specific details and instructions for the appeal process will be made available by February 1, 2024, **however for the 24-25 school year we expect to implement significant flexibilities within the appeal process.** We hope you find this information helpful in planning for your child's enrollment in the Stonington Public Schools.

The following information reviews the law and details an appeal process for families:

New Kindergarten Entrance Age Law:

Current law requires children to be at least five years old on or before January 1 of the school year to enroll in kindergarten in public schools. Beginning July 1, 2024, Section 3 of Public Act 23-159, as amended by Section 1 of Public Act 23-208, amends Connecticut General Statutes § 10-15c to require that children turn five years old on or before September 1 of the school year to enroll in kindergarten. The new law also revises how a child who does not meet the age requirements can be admitted to kindergarten. Effective July 1, 2024, a child who is not five years old on or before September 1 of the school year may be admitted (1) upon written request by the child's parent or guardian to the school principal and (2) after the principal and an appropriate certified staff member conduct an assessment of the child to ensure that admitting the child to kindergarten is developmentally appropriate."

Questions can be sent to kmorehouse@stoningtonschools.org