

Darien

Public School District

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December 1, 2023

Dear Families of Incoming Kindergartners,

We hope this letter finds you well. Many parents are aware of a significant change in the kindergarten enrollment policy in Connecticut that will be effective beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. The purpose of this communication is to inform parents of details related to the kindergarten entry age as well as how our school District will partner with parents as we approach kindergarten registration for the next school year. **If you have a child who will not be 5 years old by September 1, 2024 please read on for important information.**

What does the new law say?

Starting with the 2024-2025 school year, the State of Connecticut has updated the age requirement for kindergarten enrollment. To be automatically eligible for kindergarten, children must turn 5 years old on or before September 1. This is a shift from the previous cutoff date of January 1. The CSDE has developed this [information sheet](#) which explains this recent change in the legislation.

Are there exceptions to the age requirement in the new legislation?

Yes. If your child does not meet the new entry cutoff date but you believe they are ready for kindergarten, you may request an exception by submitting a written request to the principal of your child's designated school. When the principal receives this letter, the school is required to conduct a screening to determine if enrolling in kindergarten is developmentally appropriate for your child. ***We encourage families who plan to apply for an exception to submit their written requests as soon as possible.*** Our district is in the final stages of establishing a detailed process for assessments and exceptions. This will help us ensure a smooth and timely screening process and will help us to plan for the upcoming school year.

We understand that this legislative change may be challenging to navigate, and we are committed to supporting our families through this transition. **If you have a child who will not be 5 years old by September 1, 2024, we invite you to join us in an information session on December 14th at 9:30 a.m. in the Board of Education meeting room, 35 Leroy Avenue.** During this session we will engage in a conversation about child development and teaching and learning in kindergarten. We will also share detailed information about our timeline and process for exceptions to the kindergarten age requirement.

If your child turns 5 years old before September 1, 2024, please follow our regular registration process, which can be found [here](#). In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Julie Droller, Director of Elementary Education at jdroller@darienps.org, or your child's designated school principal.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter and your proactive steps in preparing for the next academic year. Our district remains dedicated to providing a supportive and enriching educational environment for all our students.

In partnership,



Amy Fedigan, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction
Education



Julie Droller
Director of Elementary
Education

Resources for Families

- [Supporting All Children Using the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards: A Guide for Families \(English\) \(Spanish\)](#), p. 27-28
- [Kindergarten Yardsticks](#)