



# Kindergarten Legislation Implications 2024-2025

Hamden Public Schools



# The Legislation

Effective in the 2024-2025 school year, the cutoff birthdate for children seeking admission to kindergarten will be September 1 for children who are five-years-old. An assessment process that determines the appropriateness of an underage child seeking early admission to kindergarten is the only exception to the September 1 cutoff date.

To start kindergarten in the **2024-25 school year**, your child must turn 5 on or before **September 1, 2024**.

If your child turns 5 on September 2, 2024, through September 1, 2025, they will now enter kindergarten in the 2025-26 school year.



## **Theory of Action**

If we get school community feedback and develop an assessment that is as holistic as practicable, our process for determining which students are ready for Kindergarten will be equitable, and those students who are not yet five years-old by September 1, 2024 may be permitted to enroll as Kindergarten students .



# Overview of Process

## **Working Group Members**

K-1 Classroom teachers, Preschool teachers, Community partners, Administrators and families

## **Considerations:**

Assessment

Social Emotional

Collaboration with Preschools-

Students who receive Special Education Services and Multilingual Learners

Logistics for families-

Difference between staffing at PreK and K levels

Fiscal implications



# Communication

If you would like your child to be assessed to attend Kindergarten in the 2024-2025 school year and they will turn 5 between September 2, 2024 and January 1, 2025, please know the following:

Hamden Public Schools is working to finalize how we will be handling age exception requests. To request an assessment, please contact Hamden Public Schools to have your child added to the list. You will need to provide your child's name and birthdate, address, and parent/ guardian contact information. Your home school is determined by your address. See here: <https://www.hamden.org/families/attendance-zones>

<b>Bear Path</b> 203-407-2015 Principal Carianne Boord <a href="mailto:cboord@hamden.org">cboord@hamden.org</a>	<b>Church Street</b> 203-407-2020 Principal Karen Butler <a href="mailto:klbutler@hamden.org">klbutler@hamden.org</a>	<b>Dunbar Hill</b> 203-407-2025 Principal Laura Rodriguez <a href="mailto:lrodriguez@hamden.org">lrodriguez@hamden.org</a>	<b>Helen Street</b> 203-407-2030 Principal Karen Franklin <a href="mailto:kfranklin@hamden.org">kfranklin@hamden.org</a>
<b>Ridge Hill</b> 203-407-2035 Principal Stacie D'Antonio <a href="mailto:sdantonio@hamden.org">sdantonio@hamden.org</a>	<b>Shepherd Glen</b> 203-407-2070 Principal Barbara Perrotti <a href="mailto:bperrotti@hamden.org">bperrotti@hamden.org</a>	<b>Spring Glen</b> 203-407-2045 Principal Howard Hornreich <a href="mailto:hhornreich@hamden.org">hhornreich@hamden.org</a>	<b>West Woods</b> 203-407-2050 Principal Daniel Levy <a href="mailto:dlevy@hamden.org">dlevy@hamden.org</a>

Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education Erin Bailey, [ebailey@hamden.org](mailto:ebailey@hamden.org)



## Register for School

Have a child ready for Kindergarten (Beginning in the 2024-25 school year,

Connecticut will require that all children enrolling in kindergarten turn 5 years old by Sept. 1st, more information [here](#)) or just moved into Hamden -now is the time to register!

Hamden has 8 grade K-6 elementary schools, with attendance zones designated by address. If you don't know which school your child will attend, you can find out [here](#).

**REGISTRATION CAN BE COMPLETED ONLINE**

Visit our [Hamden Student Registration Page](#) for more information.

# Timeline



- ★ Assessments tentatively planned for Saturday in March (currently 25 + requests for the assessment)
- ★ Provide families with decision within one week of assessment
- ★ After March date, students will be assessed as requested during June school-based “meet and greet” , Family Resource Center playgroups or during August school-based “Kinder prep” programs
- ★ Requests that come in after the 2024-25 academic year begins will be handled at the school level by bringing students in to be assessed



# Kindergarten Transition Plan

- ★ Kindergarten meet and greet in June
- ★ Kinder Prep Program in August
- ★ Placement flexibility

Dear Incoming Kindergarten Families,

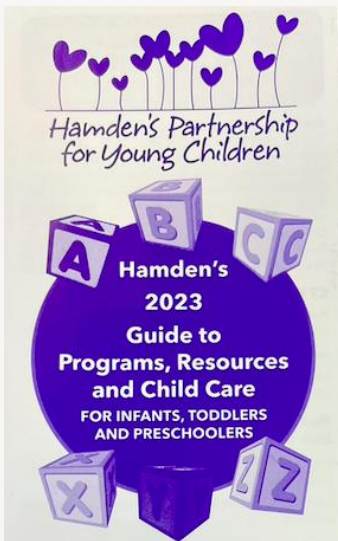
For the upcoming school year, your child has been **temporarily** placed in one of our kindergarten classrooms. As we will just be getting to know our kindergarten students, we want to work with them for two full weeks before giving them their class assignment on Friday, September 8, 2023. This will help us to ensure balanced classes of students with varying needs and strengths and allow all kindergarten students to meet their grade level classmates. Kindergarten teachers will be working closely together with all students during this first week to ensure the placements are best for optimum learning environments.

*Please note that as a general policy, we ask that parents not submit requests for a specific classroom teacher, but allow us the professional courtesy to balance each class to ensure the most equitable outcomes for all of our students.*

*Thank you in advance for your support and trust as we work to make this a smooth transition for all students. Should you have any questions, please contact the school principal.*



# Resources for Families



Hamden's Partnership for Young Children is a collaborative of private & public organizations and community members, focused on programs, services, and the needs of children birth to age nine, their parents and caregivers. Join Us!

203-407-7733

hamdenkids@gmail.com  
www.hamdenyoungchildren.org

## Additional helpful information

**My child was born between September 2 and January 1, and I was planning to send them to kindergarten when they were eligible to attend. What can I do now that the entry date has changed?**

- If your child attends preschool, communicate with the program about your family's situation and how they will continue to support your child's development.
- If your child is not attending an early care and education program, consider how a preschool experience might support them for the year(s) prior to kindergarten entry. You can find information about child care by talking with other families, searching online, or use the 2-1-1 Child Care online search tool (<https://www.211childcare.org/>).
- Seek out possible support for child care expenses, such as Care 4 Kids, state-funded preschool opportunities, public school preschool programs, or Head Start. To find out about possible low cost programs and Care4Kids financial assistance, use the 2-1-1 Child Care online search tool <https://www.211childcare.org/> or call (800) 505-1000

**How can I support my child's learning and development before the transition to kindergarten?**

- You can support learning throughout the day by sharing new words, reading with your child, asking questions, and playing.
- Begin planning how and when you will talk with your child about their transition to kindergarten to ensure a positive experience.
- Check out the [Hello Kindergarten!](#) brochure for more ideas on supporting your child across different areas of learning.