



# WOODBIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

40 Beecher Road – South  
Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525

Vonda J. Tencza – Superintendent  
[vtencza@woodbridgeps.org](mailto:vtencza@woodbridgeps.org)

December 20, 2023

Dear Beecher Road School Families and Future Families,

I am writing to share important Kindergarten registration with BRS families. As you may know, in 2023 the Connecticut Legislature changed how old a child must be to start Kindergarten. Public Act 23-208, Section 1(a) changed the birthdate cutoff to September 1 of any given school year. Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, to start Kindergarten your child must turn 5 on or before September 1, 2024. The rationale for this change is to align with many start dates for Kindergarten in the United States. All but three (3) states in the US have a Kindergarten entrance date on or close to September 1. This move may help ensure children are better emotionally and socially ready for demands of learning as demands in Kindergarten have increased in rigor. Additionally, CSDE data shows that the youngest students often struggle and are candidates for retention.

Please note that there is an exception to this change. If your child does not meet the new entry cutoff date, they may still be admitted into Kindergarten upon:

- A written request from a parent or guardian, and
- An assessment completed by the school that determines admitting the child to Kindergarten would be developmentally appropriate.

We are still refining the details of our plan and process that will align in many ways with Orange and Bethany. Each district across CT is doing their 'own thing' which is wonderful and also not helpful for consistency district to district. Here at Beecher Road School parents may begin the process of requesting an assessment as soon as we return to school on January 2, 2024 by writing a simple email or brief letter making the formal request and briefly outlining why you feel your child is ready for Kindergarten but does not meet the September 1 cut-off date. This letter or email must be sent to Principal Analisa Sherman, [asheraman@woodbridgeps.org](mailto:asheraman@woodbridgeps.org). By the end of January 2024 we will communicate detailed information to all families who have requested the assessment to inform them of our timeline for multiple screening opportunities, the first of which will be in February. We anticipate offering an additional assessment date in May and a final date in August.

We believe that parents are their child's first and most important teacher, and that partnership between home and school is essential. We believe that age alone should not predetermine Kindergarten readiness, and that each child needs to be ready socially, emotionally, and academically in order to be able to feel safe, to learn, and to grow. It is not 'all about academics' at Beecher Road School and we stand ready to educate the whole child---when that child is ready.

This assessment process is only for children who do not meet the new entrance date. We are in the process of finalizing our assessment that will cover the areas of numeracy, literacy, social/language, and motor skills, and also solicits a bit of parent input. We will provide families with simple feedback noting broad strengths and challenges of the learner, and talk with parents about the outcome of their child's assessment process. As this process is new, it continues to be developed. *Please note that our process this year may be quite different in the future as we learn from our data and from surrounding districts.* We will communicate our process and share it multiple ways, including utilization of the district website at [www.woodbridge.k12.ct.us](http://www.woodbridge.k12.ct.us) as well as through the *Principal's Newsletter*, Swift K12 notifications, and district communications from me.

Please reach out to Principal Analisa Sherman or me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Vonda J. Tencza