



Bethany Community School Tom Reed-Swale, Principal

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Bethany Parents and Guardians,

Below we have outlined our process for kindergarten entry and registration for the 2025-2026 school year. We hope that this information will keep you informed of our process and the steps needed to enroll your child for kindergarten at Bethany Community School for the 25-26 school year.

As was true last year, for the 2025-2026 school year, Public Act 23-208 requires students to be 5 years old by September 1, 2025 to enroll in Kindergarten. This is a significant change from the previous Connecticut practice of turning 5 by January 1st to enroll.

On June 29, 2023, Public Act 23-208 was approved which, among other topics, states, “public schools shall be open to all children five years of age and over who reach age five on or before the first day of September of any school year.” Public Act 23-208 also includes the following provision: “a child who has not reached the age of five on or before the first day of September of the school year may be admitted (1) upon a written request by the parent or guardian of such child to the principal of the school in which such child would be enrolled, and (2) following an assessment of such child, conducted by such principal and an appropriate certified staff member of the school, to ensure that admitting such child is developmentally appropriate.”

The Bethany Public schools recognizes that the timing of this significant change may create various challenges for many families.

Students who will be **5 years old on or before September 1, 2025** are automatically eligible to attend kindergarten. Parents may begin the registration process [HERE](#).

Students who will be **5 years old between September 2, 2025 and December 31, 2025** should complete this [FORM](#). Parents must also submit a written request to Bethany Community School’s principal, Mr. Tom Reed-Swale at treed-swale@bethany-ed.org in order for your child to be **considered** for entrance into kindergarten in the 2025-2026 school year.

Upon receipt of your written request, an appointment will be scheduled for your child to be screened for possible entry into kindergarten. These screenings will take place on **April 23, 2025**. After the assessment has been conducted you will be notified if your child is able to attend kindergarten.

All the best,

Tom Reed-Swale; Principal