

SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Salem, CT

STUDENTS

AGES OF ATTENDANCE/ADMISSIONS/PLACEMENT

In accordance with Connecticut General Statute 10-186, the Salem Board of Education shall provide education for all persons, residing in the District, five years of age and over, having attained age five on or before the first day of September of any school year, and under age twenty-one (twenty-two for special education students) who is not a graduate of a high school or vocational school, except as provided in CGS 10-233c and 10-233d. (Appendix B - To Request an Exemption to P.A. 23-208 Establishing an Age 5 Kindergarten Cutoff Date of September 1 Form)

Additionally, in accordance with CGS 10-76d (b2), special education will be provided for children who have attained the age of three and who have been identified as being in need of special education, and whose educational potential will be irreparably diminished without special education. If a special education student is being considered for an exception, the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) will make a recommendation to the administrator in charge of special education.

Children who apply for initial admission to the District by transfer from nonpublic schools or from schools outside the District will be placed at the grade they would have reached elsewhere pending observation and evaluation by classroom teachers, guidance personnel, and the school Principal. After such observations and evaluations have been completed, the Principal will determine the final grade placement of the children.

Parents and legal guardians of a child five years of age and over and under eighteen years of age, are obligated by Connecticut law to require their children to attend public school or its equivalent in the District in which such child resides, unless such child is a high school graduate or the parent or guardian is able to demonstrate that the child is receiving equivalent instruction in the studies taught in the public schools. Students under age eighteen are subject to mandatory attendance laws unless they are at least seventeen and their parent/guardian, or other person having control of the child, consents to such child's removal from school. The parent or person shall exercise this option by personally appearing at the school district office to sign a withdrawal form.

Such withdrawal form shall include an attestation from a guidance counselor or school administrator of the school that this District has provided the parent or person with information on the educational opportunities options available in the school system and or in the community, and the parent or guardian that the child will be enrolled in an adult education program upon the child's withdrawal from school.

The enrollment process shall be focused on obtaining only the information deemed necessary to establish residency and age. The District shall not request other information as a condition of enrollment or state in its policies or on its websites or otherwise, that other information is required to enroll children. The District shall immediately enroll a homeless child and allow such student to attend school even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment. Additional data collection may occur, but it must be completed in such a manner that does not interfere with the enrollment of a child in school.

Each child entering the District schools for the first time must present a birth certificate or offer legal evidence of birth data, as well as proof of a recent physical examination and required immunizations. (Refer to policy #5118.1 - Proof of Residency)

The parent or guardian having control of a child who is five years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the child is six years of age. The parent or guardian having control of a child six years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the child is seven years of age. The parent or guardian shall exercise such option by personally appearing at the school district office and signing an option form. (Appendix A). The District shall provide the parent or guardian with information on the educational opportunities available in the school district.

Effective July 2024, in accordance with PA 23-208 a child under 5 years old as of September 1 may be admitted to kindergarten if the parent or guardian makes a written request to the school principal, and the principal and an appropriate staff person conduct an assessment that shows the child is developmentally ready for kindergarten. (Appendix B)

A child who has attained the age of seventeen and who has voluntarily terminated enrollment with parental consent in the district's schools and subsequently seeks readmission may be denied readmission for up to ninety school days from the date of such termination, unless such child seeks readmission to the District not later than ten (10) school days after such termination in which case the Board shall provide school accommodations to such child not later than three school days after such child seeks readmission.

A child who has attained the age of nineteen or older may be placed in an alternative school program or other suitable educational program if he/she cannot acquire a sufficient number of credits for graduation by age twenty-one.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes: 10-15, 10-15c, 10-76a, 10-184, 10-186, 10-233a, 10-233c, 10-233d. State Board of Education Regulations: 10-76a-1 General definitions (c) (d) (q) (t).

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: August 23, 2000

Policy Adopted: September 12, 2000

Revised Policy Adopted: December 7, 2015

Revised Policy 1<sup>st</sup> Reading: January 13, 2025

Revised Policy Adopted: February 3, 2025

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF OPTION TO EXEMPT ATTENDANCE  
OF A CHILD FIVE OR SIX YEARS OF AGE FROM SCHOOL

Pursuant to Section 10-184 of the Connecticut General Statutes,

I \_\_\_\_\_, of \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Parent, Guardian or Other Address

the parent, guardian or other person charged with the care of the following minor child

\_\_\_\_\_, of \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Child Address

born on \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby choose not to send my child to public

school during the \_\_\_\_\_ school year.  
School Year

Furthermore, before signing this form, \_\_\_\_\_, a  
Name of representative from school district

representative of the \_\_\_\_\_ school district met with me and provided me with  
information concerning the educational opportunities and school accommodations  
available in the school district.

ACKNOWLEDGED BY:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent, Guardian or Other

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Request for a Waiver

To Request an Exemption to Public Act 23-208  
Establishing an Age 5 Kindergarten Cutoff Date of September 1

Pursuant to Public Act 23-208 of the Connecticut General Statutes,

I, \_\_\_\_\_, of \_\_\_\_\_  
*Name of Parent or Guardian* *Address*

the parent, guardian, or other person charged with the care of the following child,

\_\_\_\_\_, of \_\_\_\_\_ who was  
*Name of Child* *Address*

born on \_\_\_\_\_ request that my child attend kindergarten prior to  
*Date of Birth*

reaching five (5) years of age on September 1<sup>st</sup>. I understand that my child will be subject to an assessment by the principal and a certified staff member, who will determine whether admitting my child is "developmentally appropriate."

Acknowledged by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian