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July 25, 2025

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s),

This letter outlines the kindergarten early admissions waiver details for the 2026-27 school year for students who are **not** 5 years old by September 1, 2026. Since the 2024-2025 school year, all kindergarten students must be five years old by September 1 to enroll in kindergarten. This change in kindergarten entrance occurred due to state [legislation](#) enacted in 2023. More information on this legislation can be found [here](#).

If your child is four years old but will turn five before January 1, 2027, s/he is ineligible to apply directly for admission to kindergarten in the 2026-27 school year.

However, the legislation does allow parents to request an early admissions waiver to kindergarten for children who are 4 years old upon entry but will turn 5 before January 1. To initiate a waiver, you must follow this process:

- 1.) Click [this link](#) to submit the following information:
  - a. The *Parental Under 5 Kindergarten Entrance Observation Checklist*. As part of the process, please respond to all questions on the checklist. The checklist requires selecting *Observed* or *Not Observed* for all indicated skills. A response of *observed* indicates that your child consistently demonstrates the skill or knowledge indicated.
  - b. Choose your first and second choice for an assessment date. Fall and spring dates are available. All waiver assessments are conducted by Fairfield Public Schools certified staff and in-person. Parents are expected to remain for the duration of the assessment at the school site.
  - c. Acknowledge and give permission for your child to be individually assessed via the form link above.
  - d. Acknowledge that you understand that only **one** assessment will be administered per child and that the district's decision is final and without appeal on the form link above.
  - e. Write a letter requesting early admission for your child. This letter must indicate that your child is [developmentally appropriate](#) to enroll in kindergarten early and request a district assessment. This letter can be attached electronically to the form link above. Alternatively, you can send this letter to Fairfield Public Schools Central Office at 501 Kings Highway East, Suite 210, Fairfield, CT 06825 or via email to [jzavodjancik@fairfieldschools.org](mailto:jzavodjancik@fairfieldschools.org).
- 2.) Upon submission of this information, a representative from Fairfield Public Schools will contact you to confirm the next steps.

Completion of this process will initiate an assessment process for your child. The assessments are aligned with the [CT Early Learning and Development Standards](#). The Fairfield Public Schools assessment process includes:

- An individual assessment of each 4-year-old child.
- A classroom observation in a kindergarten classroom.
- A completed parent observation form (*see number 2 above*).

Upon completion of the assessment process and protocols, the district will determine if your child is eligible for early admission to kindergarten in the 2026-27 school year. The district will review all assessment and observational data to make this final decision. The decision for early admission is determined solely by the school district and is final.

The district has determined fall and spring dates for the assessment process. The fall date is open to allow parents to attain a timely response if making decisions about preschool programs for 2026-27. Both the individual assessment and classroom observation will occur during the same session. You should expect to be at the school site for approximately 60-80 minutes. Admissions decisions will be made after all parts of the process are complete and the data are analyzed.

In the interim, if you require more information about kindergarten entry and readiness skills, please visit our website [here](#) and scroll to the Kindergarten 2026-27 heading.

If you have any additional questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,



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