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## **Update on Kindergarten Entrance for the 2024-2025 Academic Year**

Based on the newly passed Connecticut General Statute, beginning July 1, 2024, children must turn five years old on or before September 1, 2024 in order to enroll in Kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year. [Click here to learn more about the State's new Kindergarten entrance guidelines.](#) The previous law allowed children to start Kindergarten if they reached age 5 by January 1 of any school year.

The new law does allow parents/guardians of children who will not turn 5 until after September 1, but before January 1, the right to send a written request to the district requesting that their child be allowed to attend Kindergarten in the Fall.

The Connecticut General Assembly voted to change the entrance age requirement for Kindergarten beginning in the 2024-2025 school year. Next year students will have to turn five *on or before* September 1, 2024 in order to enroll in Kindergarten. The change in the law, which moves the cutoff date from January 1 to September 1, aims to ensure all children are developmentally ready to enter Kindergarten and brings Connecticut's entrance age requirement in line with the majority of other states. While we support the change in principle, we understand this could have a negative impact on families who were planning to enroll their four-year-old student(s) in Kindergarten in the fall of 2024. The following information reviews the law and details an appeal process for families who might be negatively impacted by this change.

## **New Kindergarten Entrance Age Law:**

*“Current law requires children to be at least five years old on or before January 1 of the school year in order to enroll in kindergarten in the public schools. Beginning July 1, 2024, Section 3 of Public Act 23-159, as amended by Section 1 of Public Act 23-208, amends Connecticut General Statutes § 10-15c to require that children turn five years old on or before September 1 of the school year in order to enroll in kindergarten. The new law also revises the process by which a child who does not meet the law’s age requirements can be admitted to kindergarten. Effective July 1, 2024, a child who is not five years old on or before September 1 of the school year may be admitted (1) upon written request by the child’s parent or guardian to the school principal and (2) after the principal and an appropriate certified staff member conduct an assessment of the child to ensure that admitting the child to kindergarten is developmentally appropriate.”*

For those students who will not turn five until after September 1, 2024, Torrington Public Schools will have an appeal process in place for families who wish to have their child considered for entry to Kindergarten for the 2024/25 school year. The process will include a written appeal, a readiness assessment of the student by school staff, and a discussion with the family.

In alignment with the law, parents or guardians of children born between September 2, 2019 through December 31, 2019 may request approval to have their child attend Kindergarten, pending a Kindergarten entrance evaluation by district staff that finds Kindergarten to be the developmentally appropriate placement for that child. The assessment process will include a written request to the Central Office from the parent or guardian, an assessment of the student by district staff, and a discussion with the family. Parents or guardians who are making this request are not to register their child. Registration will take place after the child is assessed and their eligibility is determined.

The Kindergarten Assessment/Screening will take place the week of June 3 through 7 for those whose families are requesting early entrance (for children born between September 2, 2019 - December 31, 2019). Parents/Guardians should call the Central Office in order to schedule an appointment for the assessment. The

rationale for waiting until June to administer the assessment is because we realize that our young learners grow educationally and mature socially each and every day. By waiting until June, we will have a more accurate indicator as to whether or not your child is ready for a successful year in Kindergarten as well as to a great start in their educational journey.