



CANTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

4 Market Street, Suite 100

Canton, CT 06019

Phone: 860.693.7707

Opening Minds ~ Transforming Lives

Jon Bishop

Assistant Superintendent

Barbara McLean

Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Abe Ammary

Cherry Brook Primary School Principal

December 12, 2024

Dear Canton Public Schools Community,

In response to legislation, we are writing to provide you with information regarding the school entry ages for Kindergarten. Understanding that the start of a child's school career is important, and a life milestone many families consider thoughtfully, we wanted to provide you with information regarding this legislation and its potential impact on Kindergarten registration.

The Connecticut Legislature passed Public Act 23-208 in 2023 which changed the age to start Kindergarten beginning in the 24-25 school year. This legislation changed the cut off birthdate from January 1 of any given school year to September 1 of any given school year. With this in mind, in the 2025-2026 school year, a child must have turned 5 years old on or before September 1 in order to be automatically eligible for Kindergarten. Additional information can be found [from the State Department of Education](#) and from the [Office of Early Childhood](#). This state requirement is intended to support students, families and school systems by promoting the further maturation of our young learners and also aligns Connecticut's practices to entry criteria across the nation.

For families and guardians of children born on or before September 1, 2020, this legislation has no effect on the registration process. Those students will continue to be eligible to begin Kindergarten in the 2025-2026 school year and are strongly encouraged to participate in the regular Cherry Brook Primary School Kindergarten Registration and Screening process.

For families and guardians of children born between September 2, 2020 and December 31, 2020 will not be IMMEDIATELY eligible to begin Kindergarten until the 2026-2027 school year. It is important to note that the legislation does provide that children "may still be admitted into kindergarten upon (1) a written request from the parent or guardian, and (2) an assessment completed by the school that determines admitting the child to kindergarten would be developmentally appropriate."

If you have a child/ren planning to start Kindergarten in 2025-26 we ask you to [please complete this FORM](#) by **Wednesday, January 15**. The form is also available at this link - bit.ly/CBPSKN25-26. Please note that completion of this form does not constitute registration nor request for a waiver. The requested information will support our planning and communication efforts regarding the anticipated Kindergarten Registration, Screening, and Waiver process.

We appreciate your collaboration and we ask that you share this information with any families in town with children under the age of five.

If you have any questions, you may contact Cherry Brook Primary School at 860-693-7721

We look forward to partnering with the community to support our youngest learners.

Sincerely,

Jon Bishop
Assistant Superintendent

Barbara McLean
Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Abe Ammary
Cherry Brook Primary School Principal