



## CANTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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*Opening Minds ~ Transforming Lives*

**Jon Bishop**

Assistant Superintendent

**Barbara McLean**

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Cherry Brook Primary School Interim Principal

November 14, 2023

Dear Canton Community,

In response to recent legislation, we are writing to provide you with initial information regarding the school entry ages for Kindergarten, beginning in the 2024-25 school year. 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 recently passed Public Act 23-208 which changed the age to start Kindergarten. This legislation changed the cut off birthdate from January 1 of any given school year to September 1 of any given school year. Beginning this upcoming school year, 2024-2025, a child must have turned 5 years old on or before September 1 in order to be automatically eligible for Kindergarten, a change from past practice with a kindergarten cutoff birthdate of January

1. 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, 2019, this legislation will have no change in the registration process. Those students will continue to be eligible to begin Kindergarten in the 2024-2025 school year and are strongly encouraged to participate in the regular Cherry Brook Primary School Kindergarten Registration and Screening process.

We recognize this legislation may impact a number of our future youngest learners. For the 2024-25 school year, those born between September 2, 2019 and December 31, 2019 will not be IMMEDIATELY eligible to begin Kindergarten until the 2025-2026 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 2024-25 we ask you to [please complete this FORM](#) by **Monday, December 11**. The form is also available at this link - [bit.ly/CBPSKN](https://bit.ly/CBPSKN) 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, Interim