

## Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting, December 14, 2023

Overview/Discussion: New Kindergarten Entry Age

### **New Entry Age for Kindergarten**

Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, children need to turn 5 years old on or before September 1 in order to be automatically eligible for kindergarten. This is a change from the current kindergarten cutoff date of January 1.

#### **KEY POINTS**

- Children entering kindergarten in the 2023-2024 school year must turn 5 on or before January 1, 2024
- To start kindergarten in the 2024-25 school year, however, your child must turn 5 on or before **September 1, 2024**.
- If your child turns 5 on September 2, 2024, through September 1, 2025, they will now enter kindergarten in the 2025-26 school year.

#### **Are there any exceptions to this change?**

Yes. If your child does not meet the new entry cutoff date, they may still be admitted into kindergarten upon

- a written request from the parent or guardian, and
- an assessment completed by the school that determines admitting the child to kindergarten would be developmentally appropriate.

#### **CSDE rationale for change:**

- as demands in Kindergarten have increased in rigor, CSDE data shows that the youngest students often struggle and are candidates for retention.
- to help ensure children are better emotionally and socially ready for demands of learning.
- to align with US – all but 3 states in the US have a kindergarten entrance date on or close to September 1.

#### **Beecher Road School Beliefs**

- Parents are their child's first and most important teacher
- Partnership between home and school is essential
- Age should not predetermine Kindergarten readiness
- Child needs to be ready socially, emotionally, and academically
- It is not 'all about academics' at Beecher Road School
- All children need time to develop:
  - Gross and Fine Motor Skills-- time to develop large and small muscles
  - Social Emotional—time to develop skills to get along with others, take turns, interact with peers, deal with emotions appropriately, etc.
  - Oral Language—vocabulary development, sentence structure, academic language (foundation for success in reading, writing, and other subject areas)

### Current Work/Thinking/Next Steps for Woodbridge

<b>Research done</b>	<p>Multiple BOWA meetings            SCASA discussions            CSDE webinar            Central CT Superintendent Roundtable            Admin Cabinet discussions            Admin/K teacher meeting            Reviewed CT ELDS and CT KEI</p>
<b>Process- in development</b>	<p>ID/Develop screener- Numeracy, Literacy, Social/Language, Motor, &amp; parent input            Develop timeline for multiple screening opportunities- February, May, August?            Develop tracking process for parental written requests &amp; feedback            Train staff in implementation of screener process            Design feedback product- strengths and challenges of the learner &amp; establish timeframe for feedback            Communication process outlined and shared multiple ways            Update necessary forms for registration</p>
<b>Communication Pathways</b>	<p>Principal's message            Website            Woodbridge Town News            Swift K-12            PTO page            Provide scripted talking points to BRS office and appropriate staff</p>
<b>Website</b>	<p>Update K registration page            Post new guidelines            Post CSDE considerations            Post CSDE 'Hello Kindergarten!' brochure            Post CT ELDS</p>