

Curriculum/Instruction Subcommittee

Tuesday, September 26, 2023 7:00 PM

Meeting Access: Curriculum Subcommittee (9/26/23 at 7:00 p.m.) Web:
<https://zoom.us/j/97935913384> Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 979 3591
3384, 3 Brush Hill Road, New Fairfield, CT 06812

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

II.A. May 22, 2023 – Regular

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

III.A. Update Regarding Curriculum Analysis and
Strategic Planning

III.B. Discussion of New Legislation - Kindergarten Age
Requirement

III.C. Discussion of New Legislation - Personal Finance
Graduation Requirement for the Class of 2027

III.D. Discussion of New Legislation - Play-based
Learning

III.E. Information Regarding Reading Waiver

III.F. Review of Curriculum Committee Topics Calendar

IV. ACTION ITEMS

V. **OTHER**

VI. ADJOURNMENT

BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEW FAIRFIELD, CT
Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting

Name of Subcommittee: Curriculum

Meeting type: Regular

Date of Meeting: 5/22/23

Minutes submitted by: Kim LaTourette

Members present: Tim Blair, Stephanie Strazza, Greg Flanagan

Members absent: Kathy Baker

Other attendees: Ken Craw, Julie Luby, Alyce Misuraca, Heidi Edel, Ernest Fabrizio-Garcia, Amy Twitchell, Kimberly LaTourette

Meeting Access: Curriculum Subcommittee (5/22/23 at 7:00 p.m.) Web: <https://zoom.us/j/91931913594>

Dial In: (929) 205-6099 Meeting ID: 919 3191 3594

Meeting called to order: at 7:02 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 24, 2023 – Regular Meeting - Approved by consensus

Motion: To switch the Information Items and Action Items

Made by: Tim Blair

Seconded by: Kim LaTourette

Recording of vote: All in favor

Motion: To switch the Information Items and Action Items

Made by: Stephanie Strazza

Seconded by: Kim LaTourette

Recording of vote: All in favor

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Proposed Paris + Orleans Exchange Trip - Heidi Edel joined the meeting to discuss this trip. Julie Luby introduced her and asked this committee to bring this to the full board if approved tonight. A trip to Paris, France is being proposed. We would be hosting students in October and our students would travel to France in February. She shared some benefits of our students travelling. Joel Barlow High School has an established exchange student program and Heidi would work closely with Ed Smith; however, Joel Barlow students would be going to France at another time. The itinerary was shared in her presentation. The plane tickets are around \$1400 per student and added activities may create a total amount of around \$3000 for the trip. Some activities may be eliminated to decrease the cost. Heidi also shared information about what the French students would be doing with our students when they are here in the fall. Some details will still be worked out and shared with the board.

Kim and Tim asked that the presentation be shared with the full board.

Stephanie wanted to make sure our policies are all set and in place as far as having international students here in our district, as well as in New Fairfield homes. We also want to make sure that our students will be all set when they stay with families in France. Heidi is hoping to find some sponsorship from the community so that some students who may not be eligible may be able to go. Dr. Craw and Heidi are hoping to have this approved this school year so they can move forward with finalizing plans. We would like to gauge interest as soon as possible and would love to have around 10-15 students participate. The more students, the less the trip will cost as well.

Motion: To bring this to the full Board for the first meeting in June

Made by: Stephanie Strazza

Seconded by: Kim LaTourette

Recording of vote: All in favor

B. Textbook Adoption - Middle School Science Resource: Mosa Mack Science - Julie Luby began by mentioning the need to review resources. The one we have in place at the Middle School has expired and they have been piloting a new resource. Alyce Misuraca spoke of the Mosa Mack science textbook. Alyce mentioned the other resources that were looked at as well. Amy Twitchell also joined in the meeting. All of the Grades 6-8 science teachers like this resource. Amy spent some time showing us the teacher and student platform. This is an online resource focused on the science standards. There is a

big focus on engineering, which the teachers like as well. Once you pick a unit, the program will offer a few different options for the students to engage in - something they need to solve, something they may need to make (in person or virtual), and then something they need to engineer and use their problem-solving skills. There are phenomena, animations, focus vocabulary, a lab, presentations, and materials. This can be linked to Google Classroom. There are also a lot of different supports in place for all of our different types of learners. There are a lot of PDFs where it can be opened in Kami and words can be translated for our Spanish speaking students. There is also leveled reading for different articles. Amy said that this has been an easy resource to get used to and to use, and it is user friendly and flexible.

Motion: To bring this to the full Board and to suspend the rules

Made by: Stephanie Strazza

Seconded by: Tim Blair

Recording of vote: All in favor

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. 2023-24 Curriculum & Instruction Priorities (A Look Ahead) - Dr. Crow introduced Julie Luby to give a preview of what we will need to do and look at for next year. Julie shared a list of priorities for curriculum and instruction, as well as implementation. Alyce spoke about the science and reading waiver and how we are addressing the reading at the K-3 level. We are currently waiting to hear back and hope that will take place before the end of June. It will either be accepted or not. If it does not, we will have a choice of seven resources to choose from and be ready to pilot and purchase. If our waiver is accepted, we can continue on our progress. The state is shifting as far as their reading screening as well. The screening is required K-3. Bridges Math will be in year two and will have more of a focus on how teachers implement the math strategies and practices while addressing differentiation. EdGems will continue at the Middle School and launch in the fall. Middle School science documents need to be revised, to articulate the standards, and not be married to a resource. We will be piloting a science resource for grades 4 and 5. Mosa Mack spans 4-8, so that may be a good resource to pilot and help with the transition to the Middle School program, if approved. New social studies standards may be released in June. Elementary and High School may not have changed much, but Middle School may have changed their focus, but we will see them in June. We are looking to launch a program to hold our K-12 curriculum so that it has the maps, progression of skills among grade levels. This was cited by NEASC, so this work is important. Julie presented other items. The state is getting ready to release a new evaluation plan for teachers and administrators. What we are hearing is our own committee may have to create a plan with all of the pieces that go with it - observations, year-end review, and we will need a platform for this information to go. Some changes were made to Title IX regulations during COVID. New laws and regulations will be released this summer. This may make things easier for things to fall under Title IX, which means that we may be doing more investigations as well. We have an add-on to PowerSchool to store data. Admin has had some training, teachers have had none, but we need to figure out how this training can take place. Absenteeism/Chronic Absenteeism is still on the rise. These numbers are larger than usual, so much so that the law requires us to have certain things in place and try to figure out how to re-engage chronically absent students. More cultural and climate work needs to take place in regard to mental health, SEL, and behavior. Stephanie asked about the Math coaches and the implementation of the program. Dr. Crow and Julie agree that our Math coaches need to stay in order for this to be implemented with fidelity.

B. Curriculum & Instruction Restructuring as a Result of Required Budget Reductions

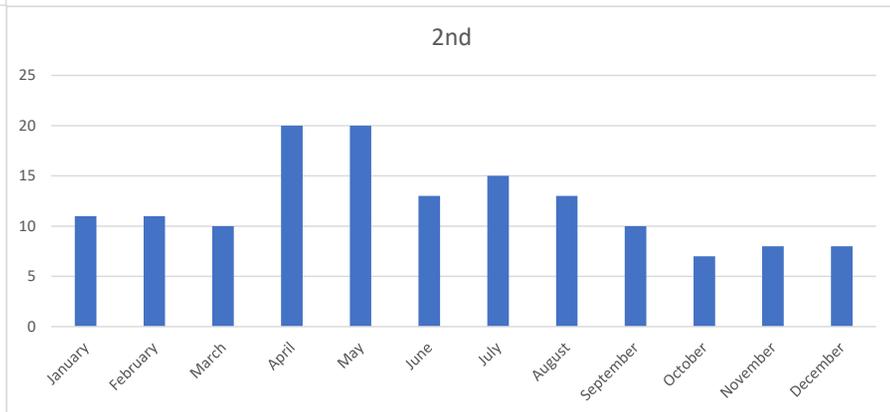
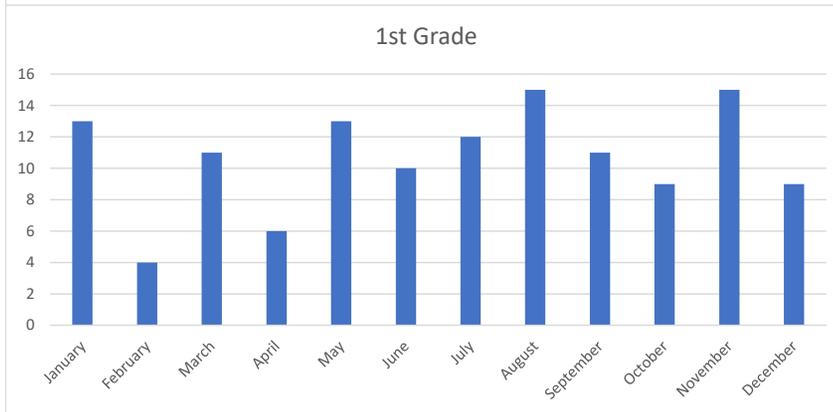
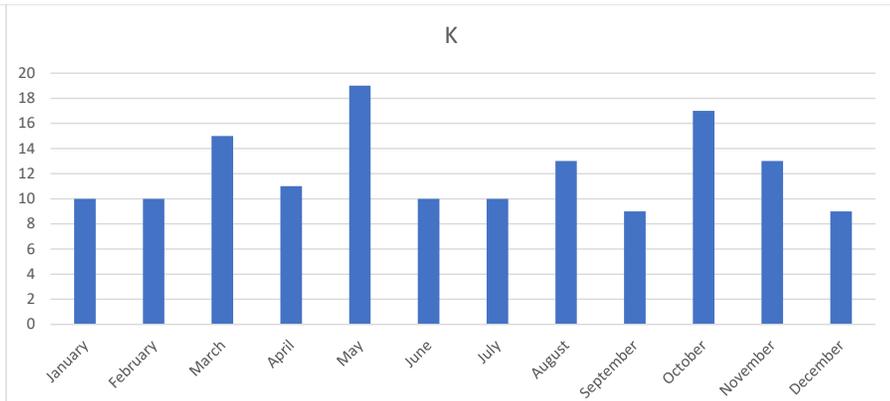
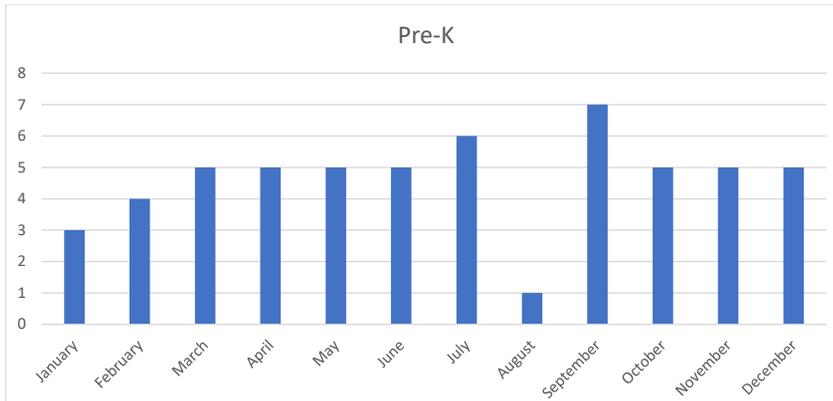
Dr. Crow reported that we currently have six coaches at the primary level and two at the secondary level. We are looking at restructuring without having the Director of Curriculum position. Without that position, we need to look at how we continue to move forward. It will impact all levels of our organization. Without final decisions in regard to the budget, it makes things very difficult to plan. We do not have the benefit of time with the obstacle of the budget. Our Assistant Superintendent position will take on some of the curriculum, instruction, and assessment, as well as professional learning. This will all be impacted.

While we tried to keep reductions away from students as much as we could, leadership does matter. This will force us to look closely at our coaches and department chairs. We will need to take a look at roles and responsibilities very closely as well. Planning right now is our biggest challenge. We are trying to bring clarity into this situation we are in.

V. OTHER – none

Motion to adjourn: Made by: Stephanie Strazza
Recording of vote: All in favor

Seconded by: Kim LaTourette
Meeting adjourned at: 8:23 p.m.



Grade	Students Born 1/1-8/31	Students Born 9/1-12/31	Percentage
Pre-K	34	22	39.29%
K	98	48	32.88%
1	84	44	34.38%
2	113	33	22.60%

Students

Ages of Attendance

In accordance with Connecticut General Statute 10-186, the Board of Education shall provide education for all persons, residing in the District, five years of age and older, having attained age five on or before the first day of January of any school year, and under twenty-one years of age who is not a graduate of a high school or vocational school, except as provided in Connecticut General Statutes 10-233c and 10-233d. For purposes of establishing the residency of a child of a member of the armed forces, as defined in C.G.S. 27-103, and who is seeking enrollment in a district school, in which such child is not yet a resident, the Board shall accept the military orders directing such member to Connecticut or any other documents from the armed forces indicating the transfer of such member to Connecticut as proof of residency in the District.

Additionally, according to Connecticut General Statute 10-76d (b2), special education will be provided for children who have attained the age of three and who have been identified as being in need of special education, and whose educational potential will be irreparably diminished without special education.

Parents and those who have the control of children five years of age and over and under eighteen years of age, are obligated by Connecticut law to require their children to attend public day school or its equivalent in the district in which such child resides, unless such child is a high school graduate or the parent or person having control of such child is able to show that the child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction in the studies taught in the public schools. The parent or person having control of a child seventeen years of age must consent to such child's withdrawal from school. The parent or person shall exercise this option by personally appearing at the school district office to sign a withdrawal form. Such form shall include an attestation from a guidance counselor, school counselor or school administrator that this district has provided the parent or person with information on the educational opportunities available in the school system and in the community.

The enrollment process shall be focused on obtaining only the information deemed necessary to establish residency and age. The District shall not request other information as a condition of enrollment or state in its policies or on its websites or otherwise, that other information is required to enroll children. The District shall immediately enroll a homeless child and allow such student to attend school even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment. Additional data collection may occur, but it must be completed in such a manner that does not interfere with the enrollment of a child in school.

The parent or person having control of a child five years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the child is six years of age. The parent or person having control of a child six years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the child is seven years of age.

Students

Ages of Attendance (continued)

The parent or person having control shall exercise such option by personally appearing at the school district office and signing an option form. The district shall provide the parent or person with information on the educational opportunities available in the school system.

The District, when determining residency, shall not request documentation of citizenship or immigration status of a child or the child's parents/guardians. The Board believes such documentation is not relevant to establishing residency.

In the establishment of residency, the Board will accept such documentation as, but not limited to, a lease agreement, mortgage document, property tax record, rent receipt, home owners insurance, current utility bill, current proof of government benefits, CT driver's license, automobile registration or insurance. An Affidavit of Residence, properly executed, shall also be acceptable.

The above requirements are not to serve as barriers to immediate enrollment of students, designated as homeless or foster children as required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the McKinney-Vento Act as amended by the ESSA. The District shall work with the local child welfare agency, the school last attended, or other relevant agencies to obtain necessary enrollment documentation. The District shall immediately enroll a homeless student and allow such student to attend school even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment.

The parent/guardian of any child who is denied admission to school, or an emancipated minor, a student eighteen years of age or older, a homeless child or youth, or an unaccompanied youth who is denied schooling, or an agent or officer charged with the enforcement of attendance laws may request, in writing, a hearing by the Board of Education. Such hearing may be conducted by the entire Board of Education, or by a subcommittee of three Board members, or by a local impartial hearing Board of one or more persons not members of the Board of Education.

A child who has attained the age of seventeen and who has voluntarily terminated enrollment with parental consent in the district's schools and subsequently seeks readmission may be denied readmission for up to ninety school days from the date of such termination unless such child seeks readmission to the District not later than ten (10) school days after such termination in which case the Board shall provide school accommodations to such child not later than three school days after such child seeks readmission.

A child who has attained the age of nineteen or older may be placed in an alternative school program or other suitable educational program if he/she cannot acquire a sufficient number of credits for graduation by age twenty-one.

(cf. 5111 - Admission/Placement)

(cf. 5112 - Ages of Attendance)

(cf. 6146 - Graduation Requirements)

Students

Ages of Attendance (continued)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
4-176e to 4-180a Agency hearings.
4-181a Contested cases. Reconsideration. Modifications.
10-15 Towns to maintain schools
10-15c Discrimination in public schools prohibited. School attendance by five-year-olds
10-76a - 10-76g re special education
10-184 Duties of parents (re mandatory schooling for children ages five to sixteen, inclusive) as amended by PA-98-243, and PA 00-157
10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education re school attendance. Hearings. (as amended by P.A. 19-179)
P.A. 19-179 An Act Concerning Homeless Students' Access to Education.
P.A. 21-86 An Act Concerning the Enrollment of Children of Members of the Armed Forces in Public Schools and the Establishment of a Purple Star School Program.
Appeals to State Board. Establishment of hearing board.
“Guidance for Connecticut School Districts: Enrollment Process and Practice,” State Department of Education, December 2019.
10-233a - 10-233f Inclusive; re: suspend, expel, removal of pupils
10-233c Suspension of pupils
10-233d Expulsion of pupils
State Board of Education Regulations
10-76a-1 General definitions (c) (d) (q) (t)

Policy adopted: March 21, 2002
Policy readopted: June 16, 2005
Policy revised: March 5, 2020
Policy revised: November 4, 2020
Policy revised: December 2, 2021

NEW FAIRFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New Fairfield, Connecticut

Sample policy to consider.

Students

Ages of Attendance

In accordance with Connecticut General Statute 10-186, the Board of Education shall provide education for all persons, residing in the District, five years of age and over, who reach age five on or before the first day of January **(September 1st, effective July 1, 2024)** of any school year, and under twenty-one (age twenty-two for special education students) who is not a graduate of a high school or vocational school, except as provided in Connecticut General Statutes 10-233c and 10-233d. For purposes of establishing the residency of a child of a member of the armed forces, as defined in C.G.S. 27-103, and who is seeking enrollment in a district school, in which such child is not yet a resident, the Board shall accept the military orders directing such member to Connecticut or any other documents from the armed forces indicating the transfer of such member to Connecticut as proof of residency in the District.

Additionally, according to Connecticut General Statute 10-76d (b2), special education will be provided for children who have attained the age of three and who have been identified as being in need of special education, and whose educational potential will be irreparably diminished without special education.

Parents and those who have the control of children five years of age and over and under eighteen years of age, are obligated by Connecticut law to require their children to attend public day school or its equivalent in the District in which such child resides, unless such child is a high school graduate or the parent or person having control of such child is able to show that the child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction in the studies taught in the public schools. Students under age eighteen are subject to mandatory attendance laws unless they are at least seventeen and their parent/guardian, or other person having control of the child, consents to such child's removal from school. The parent or person shall exercise this option by personally appearing at the school district office to sign a withdrawal form. Such withdrawal form shall include an attestation from a guidance counselor, school counselor or school administrator of the school that this District has provided the parent or person with information on the educational opportunities options available in the school system and in the community.

The enrollment process shall be focused on obtaining only the information deemed necessary to establish residency and age. The District shall not request other information as a condition of enrollment or state in its policies or on its websites or otherwise, that other information is required to enroll children. The District shall immediately enroll a homeless child and allow such student to attend school even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment. Additional data collection may occur, but it must be completed in such a manner that does not interfere with the enrollment of a child in school.

The parent or person having control of a child five years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the child is six years of age. The parent or person having control of a child six years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the child is seven years of age.

Students

Ages of Attendance (continued)

The District, when determining residency, shall not request documentation of citizenship or immigration status of a child or the child's parents/guardians. The Board believes such documentation is not relevant to establishing residency.

In the establishment of residency, the Board will accept such documentation as, but not limited to, a lease agreement, mortgage document, property tax record, rent receipt, home owners insurance, current utility bill, current proof of government benefits, CT driver's license, automobile registration or insurance. An Affidavit of Residence, properly executed, shall also be acceptable.

The above requirements are not to serve as barriers to immediate enrollment of students, designated as homeless or foster children as required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the McKinney-Vento Act as amended by the ESSA. The District shall work with the local child welfare agency, the school last attended, or other relevant agencies to obtain necessary enrollment documentation. The District shall immediately enroll a homeless student and allow such student to attend school even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment.

The parent/guardian of any child who is denied admission to the District's schools, or an unaccompanied minor, a student eighteen years of age or older, a homeless child or youth or an unaccompanied youth who is denied schooling on the basis of residency, or an agent or officer charged with the enforcement of the laws concerning attendance at school may request, in writing, a hearing by the Board of Education.

The parent or person shall exercise such option by personally appearing at the school district office and signing an option form. The District shall provide the parent or person with information on the educational opportunities available in the school system.

A child who has attained the age of seventeen and who has voluntarily terminated enrollment with parental consent in the District's schools and subsequently seeks readmission may be denied readmission for up to ninety school days from the date of such termination unless such child seeks readmission to the District not later than ten (10) school days after such termination in which case the Board shall provide school accommodations to such child not later than three school days after such child seeks readmission.

A child who has attained the age of nineteen or older may be placed in an alternative school program or other suitable educational program if he/she cannot acquire a sufficient number of credits for graduation by age twenty-one.

- (cf. 5111 - Admission/Placement)
- (cf. 5118.1 - Homeless Students)
- (cf. 5118.3 - Children in Foster Care)
- (cf. 5112 - Ages of Attendance)
- (cf. 6146 - Graduation Requirements)

Students

Ages of Attendance (continued)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
4-176e to 4-180a Agency hearings
4-181a Contested cases. Reconsideration. Modifications.
10-15 Towns to maintain schools
10-15c Discrimination in public schools prohibited. School attendance by five-year-olds
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10-184 Duties of parents (re mandatory schooling for children ages five to sixteen, inclusive) as amended by PA-98-243, PA 00-157, PA 09-6 (September Special Session) and PA 18-15
10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education re school attendance. Hearings. (as amended by P.A. 19-179)
P.A. 19-179 An Act concerning Homeless Students; Access to education Appeals to State Board. Establishment of hearing board
10-233a - 10-233f Inclusive; re: suspend, expel, removal of pupils
10-233c Suspension of pupils
10-233d Expulsion of pupils
State Board of Education Regulations
10-76a-1 General definitions (c) (d) (q) (t)
P.A. 19-179 An Act Concerning Homeless Students' Access to Education "Guidance for Connecticut School Districts: Enrollment Process and Practice," State Department of Education, December 2019.
P.A. 21-86 An Act Concerning the Enrollment of Children of Members of the Armed Forces in Public Schools and the Establishment of a Purple Star School Program
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (PL 107-110 Sec. 1032) 42 U.S.C. §11431-11435, as amended by the ESSA, P.L. 114-95
Federal Register: McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children & Youths Program, Vol. 81 No. 52, 3/17/2016

Policy adopted:

rev 4/20
rev 7/21
rev 11/21
rev 7/23

Another version to consider.

Students

Ages of Attendance

Admission

The Board of Education (Board) recognizes the statutory right of children residing in the District to be enrolled in school if residency and age are confirmed. However, homeless students shall not be required to show residency.

For purposes of establishing the residency of a child of a member of the armed forces, as defined in C.G.S. 27-103, and who is seeking enrollment in a district school, in which such child is not yet a resident, the Board shall accept the military orders directing such member to Connecticut or any other documents from the armed forces indicating the transfer of such member to Connecticut as proof of residency in the District.

District schools shall be open to all children five years of age and over who reach age five by December 31st (**September 1st, effective July 1, 2024**) of any school year. Each such child shall have, and shall be so advised by the appropriate school authorities, an equal opportunity to participate in the program and activities of the school system without discrimination on account of race, color, sex, religion, national origin or sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. Exceptions from routine admission may be made by the school Principal on the basis of supporting evidence from physical and psychological examinations.

Parents and those who have the care of children age five to eighteen years of age inclusive are obligated by Connecticut law to require their children to attend public day school or its equivalent in the District in which such child resides, unless the parent or person having control of such child is able to show that the child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction in the studies taught in the public schools. All resident children under the age of twenty-one (age twenty-two for special education students) who have not obtained a high school diploma are entitled to attend a District school. The parent or person having legal guardianship of a child seventeen years of age must consent to such child's withdrawal from school.

The parent or person shall exercise this option by personally appearing at the school district office to sign a withdrawal form. Such withdrawal form shall include an attestation form a guidance counselor, school counselor or school administrator of the school that the District has provided the parent or person with information on the educational options available in the school system and in the community. If a child is eighteen years of age or older, he/she is not required to attend school.

The parent or person having control of a child five years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the child is six years of age by December 31st of any school year. The parent or person having control of a child six years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the child is seven years of age by December 31st of any school year.

Students

Ages of Attendance (continued)

The parent or person having control shall exercise such option by personally appearing at the school district office and signing an option form. The District shall provide the parent or person having legal guardianship with information on the educational opportunities available in the school system.

Each child entering the District schools for the first time must present a birth certificate or offer legal evidence of birth data, as well as proof of a recent physical examination and required immunizations. Other documents that may be accepted as proof of a child's age include, but are not limited to, a photocopy of a birth certificate, earlier school records, state-issued identification document, driver's license or passport, parent's affidavit or unsworn statement as to a child's age, physician's certificate verifying a child's age, or immunization records. If the parents or guardians of any children are unable to pay for such immunizations and/or physicals, the expense of such immunizations and/or physicals shall on the recommendation of the Board, be paid by the Town. Proof of domicile may also be requested by the Building Principal.

The above requirements are not to serve as barriers to immediate enrollment of students, designated as homeless or foster children as required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the McKinney-Vento Act as amended by the ESSA. The District shall work with the local child welfare agency, the school last attended, or other relevant agencies to obtain necessary enrollment documentation. The District shall immediately enroll a homeless student and allow such student to attend school even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment.

The parent/guardian of any child who is denied admission to the District's schools, or an unaccompanied minor, a student eighteen years of age or older, a homeless child or youth or an unaccompanied youth who is denied schooling on the basis of residency, or an agent or officer charged with the enforcement of the laws concerning attendance at school may request, in writing, a hearing by the Board of Education.

Children who have attained the age of seventeen and who have voluntarily terminated enrollment in the District's schools and subsequently seek readmission may be denied readmission for up to ninety school days from the date of such termination, unless such child seeks readmission to the District not later than ten (10) school days after such termination in which case the Board shall provide school accommodations to such child not later than three school days after such child seeks readmission.

Provisions for Special Education

According to Connecticut General Statute 1-76d(b2), special education will be provided for children who have attained the age of three and who have been identified as being in need of special education, and whose educational potential will be irreparably diminished without special education. If a special education student is being considered for an exception, the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) will make a recommendation to the administrator in charge of special education.

Students

Ages of Attendance (continued)

Alternative School Placement

Children who have attained the age of nineteen or older may be placed in an alternative school program or other suitable educational program if they cannot acquire a sufficient number of credits for graduation by age twenty-one.

(cf. 5118.1 – Homeless Students)

(cf. 5118.3 – Children in Foster Care)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-15 Towns to maintain schools
 10-15c Discrimination in public schools prohibited. School attendance by five-year-olds
 10-76a - 10-76g re special education
 10-184 Duties of parents (re mandatory schooling for children ages five to sixteen, inclusive) as amended by PA 98-243, PA 00-157, PA 09-6 (September Special Session) and PA 18-15
 10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education re school attendance. Hearings. (Amended by PA 96-26 An Act Concerning Graduation Requirements and Readmission and Placement of Older Students and PA 09-6 (September Special Session) and P.A. 21-6 Appeals to State Board. Establishment of hearing board
 10-233a - 10-233f Inclusive; re: suspend, expel, removal of pupils
 10-233c Suspension of pupils
 10-233d Expulsion of pupils
 10-261 Definitions
 State Board of Education Regulations
 10-76a-1 General definitions (c) (d) (q) (t)
 10-76d-7 Admission of student requiring special education (referral)
 10-204a Required immunizations (as amended by PA 98-243)
 “Guidance for Connecticut School Districts: Enrollment Process and Practice,” State Department of Education, December 2019.
 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (PL 107-110 Sec. 1032) 42 U.S.C. §11431-11435, as amended by the ESSA, P.L. 114-95
 Federal Register: McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children & Youths Program, Vol. 81 No. 52, 3/17/2016

Policy adopted:

rev 7/21

rev 11/21

rev 7/23

_____ PUBLIC SCHOOLS
_____, Connecticut

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF OPTION TO EXEMPT ATTENDANCE OF
CHILD FIVE OR SIX YEARS OF AGE FROM SCHOOL**

Pursuant to Section 10-184 of the Connecticut General Statutes,

I _____, of _____
Name of Parent, Guardian or Other *Address*

the parent, guardian or other person charged with the care of the following minor child

_____, of _____ who was
Name of Child *Address*

born on _____ do hereby choose not to send my child to public
Date

school during the _____.
School Year

Furthermore, before signing this form, a representative of the _____
Name of District

school district met with me and provided me with information concerning the educational
opportunities and school accommodations available in the school system.

ACKNOWLEDGED BY:

Signature of Parent, Guardian or Other

Date

_____ PUBLIC SCHOOLS
_____, Connecticut

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF OPTION TO WITHDRAW CHILD
SEVENTEEN YEARS OF AGE FROM SCHOOL**

Pursuant to Section 10-184 of the Connecticut General Statutes,

I _____, of _____
Name of Parent, Guardian or Other *Address*

the parent, guardian or other person charged with the care of the following minor child

_____, of _____
Name Child *Address*

born on _____ do hereby elect to withdraw from public school.
Date of birth

Furthermore, before signing this form, a representative of the _____
Name of District

school district met with me and provided me with information concerning the educational options available in the school system and the community.

ATTESTMENT BY:

Signature of School Counselor *Date*

OR

Signature of School Administrator *Date*

ACKNOWLEDGED BY:

Signature of Parent, Guardian or Other *Date*

A child seventeen years of age or older who voluntarily terminates enrollment in a school district and subsequently seeks readmission, the local or regional board of education for the school district may deny school accommodations to the child for up to ninety school days from the date of such termination. Unless the child seeks readmission to the school district not later than ten school days after the termination in which case the board shall provide school accommodations to the child not later than three school days after the child seeks readmission.

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.

The following questions and answers are intended to address and respond to questions you may have regarding the new entry date for kindergarten.

What is the new entry date for kindergarten?

For the 2023-2024 school year there is no change to the entry date	Children must be 5 on or before January 1, 2024 in order to enter kindergarten for the 2023-2024 school year.
For the 2024-25 school year and all following years	Children must turn 5 on or before September 1 to enter kindergarten for any given 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 (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.

What if my child is receiving special education services?

If your child receives special education services and does not meet the new entry cutoff date, your child's planning and placement team (PPT) will review/revise your child's individualized education program (IEP) to meet your child's needs during the additional year of preschool. **Please note:** Parents may submit a written request for their child to be admitted into kindergarten if they do not meet the new entry cutoff date. The school will complete an assessment to determine whether admitting the child to kindergarten would be developmentally appropriate.

My child was born between September 2 and January 1, and I was planning to send them to kindergarten when they were eligible to attend. What can I do now that the entry date has changed?

- If your child attends preschool, communicate with the program about your family’s situation and how they will continue to support your child’s development.
- If your child is not attending an early care and education program, consider how a preschool experience might support them for the year(s) prior to kindergarten entry. You can find information about child care by talking with other families, searching online, or [use the 2-1-1 Child Care online search tool](#).
- Seek out possible supports for child care expenses, such as Care 4 Kids, state-funded preschool opportunities, public school preschool programs, or Head Start. To find out about possible low-cost programs and Care4Kids financial assistance, [use the 2-1-1 Child Care online search tool](#) or call (800) 505-1000
- If you believe that it is developmentally appropriate for your child to enter kindergarten., communicate with your elementary school to request an assessment for admitting your child to kindergarten.

How can I support my child’s learning and development before the transition to kindergarten?

- You can support learning throughout the day by sharing new words, reading with your child, asking questions, and playing.
- Begin planning how and when you will talk with your child about their transition to kindergarten to ensure a positive experience.
- Check out the [Hello Kindergarten!](#) brochure for more ideas on supporting your child across different areas of learning.

How was this change made?

In 2023, the Connecticut Legislature changed how old a child must be to start kindergarten. Public Act 23-208, Section 1(a) changed the birth date cutoff date from January 1 of any given school year to September 1 of any given school year.

Who can I contact if I have additional questions?

Reach out to your home school district to discuss the process for registration and placement in kindergarten. You can search for your local schools and find contact information on the [Find Contacts](#) website.

Financial Literacy Legislation

SB 1165, An Act Concerning Financial Literacy Instruction PA 23-21 This Act adds a half-credit of personal financial management and financial literacy to the high school graduation requirements beginning with the graduating class of 2027. The Act also adds personal financial management and financial literacy to the state's required program of instruction for public schools. It also makes completion of a one-credit, mastery-based diploma assessment (i.e., a "capstone") an optional, rather than mandatory, graduation requirement at each board of education's discretion. By law, a school board cannot grant a high school diploma unless the student has completed at least 25 credits total. By making the completion of one-credit capstone a local option and allowing students to fulfill the half-credit financial literacy requirement either as a humanities credit or as an elective credit, the law reduces the state prescribed credit requirements from 22 to 21 credits, thereby increasing the potential credits available for electives to a range of three to four. (The exact number of elective credits depends upon the (1) local decision to require a capstone and (2) student's decision to count financial literacy towards the humanities requirement or as an elective.) EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2023.

Play-based Learning

§§ 4 & 5 — PLAY-BASED LEARNING DURING PRESCHOOL, KINDERGARTEN, AND GRADES ONE TO FIVE - The Public Act requires each school board to provide play-based learning during the instructional time of each regular school day for students in kindergarten and preschool. The play-based learning must (1) be incorporated and integrated into daily practice; (2) allow for the students' needs to be met through free play, guided play, and games; and (3) not involve, predominantly, using mobile electronic devices. Additionally, it requires each school board to allow a teacher to use play-based learning during the instructional time of a regular school day for students in grades one to five, inclusive. The play-based learning may be incorporated and integrated into daily practice, and, as with kindergarten and 12 preschool, must (1) allow for the students' needs to be met through free play, guided play, and games and (2) predominantly not involve using mobile electronic devices. Under the Public Act "play-based learning" means a teaching approach that emphasizes play in promoting learning and includes developmentally appropriate strategies that can be integrated with existing learning standards. It does not mean time spent in recess or as part of a physical education course or instruction. The Public Act requires that any play-based learning comply with a student's individualized education program under special education law or an accommodation plan under Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973. A school employee may only prevent or otherwise restrict a student's participation in play-based learning if it is in accord with the school board's policy addressing recess restrictions as a form of discipline. Additionally, the Public Act adds play-based learning to educator professional development beginning July 1, 2024. Under current law, educator professional development must include a number of specific topics including refining and improving various effective teaching methods that are shared between and among educators. The Public Act adds that this must include play-based learning, as defined in the Public Act, for those teaching preschool or in grades kindergarten through five.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2024, except the professional development provision is effective July 1, 2023.

**Curriculum Committee
Draft- Calendar fo Topics
September 26, 2023**

<p>September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strategic Planning ● New Legislation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kindergarten Age ○ Financial Literacy ○ Play-based Learning ● Curriculum Committee Calendar 	<p>February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Math Update
<p>October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Curriculum Analysis Report Review ● Talented and Gifted Program Update 	<p>March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discussion of ELL
<p>November</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New Course Proposals ● World Language Discussion ● Middle School Teaming 	<p>April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Progress update on Teaching and Learning District Priorities
<p>December</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reading Waiver Update ● Budget-related Proposals 	<p>May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New Textbook/Resource Adoption
<p>January</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strategic Planning Update ● Science Update 	<p>June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Summer Curriculum Writing