



Supporting Our Students' Success

**Committee on Learning
June 2024**

*Ensuring Coherent Programming through Collaboration,
Communication and Careful Planning*

Guiding Our Work

Tonight's conversation emphasizes:

- **Operationalizing efficient and effective systems and structures;**
- **Focusing on future-focused Programming;**
- **Creating goals that are guided by data.**

Tonight's Topics

For Your Information:

- STEM Programming
- Educator Evaluation - 2024-2025
- Kindergarten Entry Age - 2025-2026



STEM Programming K-5

K-5 STEM Programming

STEM Update

VR Goggles





Educator Evaluation 2024-2025



The Guidelines for Educator Evaluation Have Changed

What are the new guidelines?

What does this mean for 2024/25?

What Are the New Guidelines?

Evaluation process must be based on a set of national or state performance standards.

- Currently, we use the Common Core of Teaching Rubric, Connecticut Rubric for Service Delivery and Professional Standards for Educational Leaders.

Must have a minimum of three touch points during the year.

- We currently have a goal setting meeting, mid-year check-in and end-of year conference.

Classroom visits/observations must be in place.

- We have this in place. Non-tenure will have three informal visits and tenure faculty will have two informal visits.

Big Shift

Student Learning  Adult Learning

Professional Learning

District opportunities will now need to include time for teachers to be self-directed in order to learn, reflect and implement.

- ❑ New Learning
- ❑ Impact on Practice
- ❑ Impact on Student Learning

Focus on Student Learning Continues

The expectation is that all students will meet or exceed their growth target.

Professional Learning and Evaluation Committee

Large group will meet three times a year.

Small work groups are formed to address educator evaluation and professional learning.

Kindergarten Entry Age

Age Requirements

Current Law:

Children entering kindergarten in Connecticut public schools must reach age 5 on or before January 1 of the school year. It is a local board of education's decision to admit a child before he or she is age eligible for kindergarten.

New Law Effective with the 2024 - 2025 School Year:

Children entering kindergarten in Connecticut public schools must reach age 5 on or before September 1 of the school year. A child who has not reached the age of 5 on or before the first day of September of the school year may be admitted (1) upon a written request by the parent or guardian of such child to the principal of the school in which such child would be enrolled, and (2) following an assessment of such child, conducted by such principal and an appropriate certified staff member of the school, to ensure that admitting the child is developmentally appropriate.

35 States Currently Require Students to be 5 years old on/before September 1

Child must be 5 years old on or before:

June 30: West Virginia

July 31: Hawaii, Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota

August 1: Arkansas, Indiana, Ohio, Wyoming

August 15: Tennessee

August 31: Arizona, Delaware, Kansas, New Mexico, North Carolina, Washington

September 10: Montana

September 15: Iowa

September 30: District of Columbia, Louisiana, Virginia

October 1: Colorado, New Jersey

October 15: Maine

January 1: Connecticut, Vermont

1st Day of School: Nevada

Background Information:

As a district, we recognized the importance of clearly communicating our response to the new legislation to our community. Families and the community had to quickly address the change in the kindergarten eligibility age, and we were sensitive to the possible burden this change may place on families who need to secure an additional year of preschool on a very tight timetable. Many childcare centers have deadlines for participants and require a non-refundable fee to hold a child slot for the upcoming school year.

Our decision to move such a large number forward was based on the following:

- Given the timing of this legislation, we need to be responsive to our families.
- There is a need to ensure equitable educational access for all students.

Our Response

A team of twenty-five educators and leaders worked for four months to create and implement our district's waiver process.

The process included:

- A plan for clear communication.
- The development of documents related to the waiver process.
- A district-developed assessment tool based on Connecticut's Early Learning
- Development Standards (ELDS).

Let's talk about Kindergarten

As a district, we wanted to create a place to share information related to the kindergarten entry for the 2024-2025 school year. This site is dedicated to ensuring open communication is in place. We will provide updates as we move forward with this process.

A collaborative partnerships of students, educators, family and community

In accordance with Section I of PA 23-208, which amends Section 10-15c of the Connecticut General Statutes effective July 1, 2024, children seeking admission to kindergarten beginning the 2024-2025 school year must be five years old on or before September 1.

As a district, we recognize the importance of providing our community with clear communication regarding how our district will address this new legislation. A district committee composed of educators and administrators met over the past several months to thoughtfully address the recent Connecticut legislation addressing the kindergarten eligibility birthdate. The team worked together to review the legislation, discuss the implications of this change for both the district and families, collaborate with colleagues in our surrounding area to understand their approach to the change, and work to develop a responsive approach for our community.

1. The district will adhere to the Connecticut Legislation stating that starting 2024-2025 school year, students must be five years of age no later than September 1 to be eligible to enter kindergarten.
2. Families with children turning five after the set date can complete and submit a waiver to the building principal by February 23, 2024, for current New Milford families and by June 1 for families moving into New Milford after the deadline. This process will include a district-developed assessment as part of the waiver decision process.

This Year

43 waivers

43 students moving onto kindergarten.

2 students waiting until the 2025-2026 school year.

2 students moved into district with waivers from their sending district.

Next Year - 2025-2026

We recommend strictly adhering to the September 1 deadline for kindergarten eligibility starting in the 2025-2026 school year.

Communication with families regarding the September 1 deadline will begin in June 2024. This will allow families who may be impacted the necessary time to plan accordingly.



Questions

