



Rocky Hill Public Schools

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, 761 OLD MAIN ST., P.O.BOX 627

ROCKY HILL, CONNECTICUT 06067-0627 • (860) 258-7701

January 24, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you are perhaps aware, in 2023 the Governor signed legislation, Public Act 23-208, which requires all incoming kindergarten students for SY 2024-25 to reach the age of five by September 1, 2024. Previously, incoming kindergarten students were required to reach the age of five by January 1 of the academic year in which the child was enrolled. The legislation potentially impacts all children in Connecticut born after September 1, 2019, and on or before January 1, 2020. Previously, the children born during this four-month period would have been eligible to enroll in kindergarten for SY 2024-25, beginning their kindergarten experiences as four-year olds.

There is ample research supporting the rationale for the legislation. Generally, students who have reached age five by the time they begin kindergarten perform better academically and socially in comparison to their younger peers who begin kindergarten at age four. However, we are aware that the change in eligibility dates will have consequences for some families and we are sensitive to this situation. Please note that Public Act 23-208 provides parents and guardians with children who do not meet the September 1 cutoff date with an opportunity to request that the school principal assess the readiness of their child for early admission into kindergarten.

While we encourage families to adhere to the new kindergarten entrance cutoff date (reaching age five prior to September 1) we understand that some families may still wish to enroll children who have not reached age five prior to September 1, 2024. To that end, Rocky Hill Public Schools has created a waiver application for families with children who will reach age five on or before January 1, 2025. The waiver application **must be** completed by any parent or legal guardian who wishes to enroll a child in kindergarten if the child has not met the September 1, 2024, cutoff date. Once the waiver application has been reviewed by the school principal, the parent or legal guardian will be notified with respect to the principal's decision. *In addition, Rocky Hill Public Schools will not consider any children who were born after January 1, 2020, for early admission to kindergarten for SY 2024-25.*

Kindergarten registration for SY 2024-25 will begin on Thursday, February 15, 2024. At that time, the waiver application will be available. All kindergarten registration information and forms will be located on the district's website (www.rockyhillps.com) under Central Registration.

Should you have any questions regarding the kindergarten registration process, please contact Mr. Thomas Kennison, Director of Enrollment and Residency, at 860-258-3180 or kennisont@rockyhillps.com.

Respectfully,

Mark Zito, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools