

STUDENTS
Admission/Placement

5111(a)

North Canaan Elementary School shall be open to all children five years of age and over who reach age five on or before the first day of September 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. Students who are classified as homeless under federal law or an unaccompanied youth, as described in 42 USC 11434a, and therefore do not have a fixed residence, will be admitted pursuant to federal law and policy 5118.1.

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.

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.

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.

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. 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.

Each child entering North Canaan Elementary School 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. If the parents or guardians of any children are unable to pay for such immunizations, the expense of such immunizations shall, on the recommendation of the Board, be paid by the town. Proof of domicile may also be requested by the building Principal.

Any child entering or returning to the district from placement in a juvenile detention school, the Connecticut Juvenile Training School, or any other residential placement, shall have the educational records of such child provided to the Superintendent of Schools by the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Judicial Department. Such information will be shared with the Principal of the school to which the student is assigned. The Principal can disclose them to the staff who teach or care for the child.

The District will immediately enroll any student who transfers from Unified District No. 1 or

Unified District No 2. A student transferring from the Unified School Districts who had previously attended school in the local District shall be enrolled in the school such student previously attended, provided such school has the appropriate grade level for the student.

The parent or person having control of a child seventeen years of age may consent to such child's withdrawal from school. The parent or person having control of a child seventeen years of age 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 the district has provided the parent or person with information on the educational options available in the school system and in the community.

Children who have attained the age of seventeen and who have terminated enrollment in the district's schools with parental permission as described previously 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 a district school not later than ten days after such termination. In such case the child will be provided school accommodations not later than three days after the requested readmission.

Note: *When a student is enrolling in a new school district or new state charter school, written notification of such enrollment shall be provided to the previous school district or charter school not later than two business days after the student enrolls.*

Children who apply for initial admission to the district's schools by transfer from nonpublic schools or from schools outside the district will be placed at the grade they would have reached elsewhere pending observation and evaluation by classroom teachers, guidance personnel, and the school Principal. After such observations and evaluations have been completed, the Principal will determine the final grade placement of the children.

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. 0521 - Nondiscrimination)

(cf. 5118.1 Homeless Students)

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, as amended by PA 97-247

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 and PA 09-6) September Special Session) and PA 18-15

10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education re school attendance. Hearings. Appeals to state board. Establishment of hearing board. Readmission, as amended by P.A. 19-179.

10-220h Transfer of student records, as amended.

P.A. 11-115 An Act Concerning Juvenile Reentry and Education

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

10-233k Notification of school officials of potentially dangerous students.

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

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §11431 et seq.

Plyler vs. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982)

Adopted: June 8, 1995

Revised: December 8, 2020

Revised: October 10, 2023

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To accommodate students who turn five years of age in any given year, North Canaan Elementary School will hold two Kindergarten programs as follows:

- Kindergarten - Students must be five years old by September 1 to be eligible for this program.
- Early Kindergarten (EK) - This program is for students who may need an additional year of support and for students whose birthdays fall between September 2nd and December 31st in any given year.

North Canaan Elementary School staff shall admit students to Kindergarten as follows:

- Screen all students in the spring. The District will publish Kindergarten screening dates on its website and in the press to ensure that all community members are aware of the schedule:
 - Kindergarten-eligible students (i.e. students who turn 5 by the September 1 deadline) and who may need an additional year of social and instructional support receive priority consideration for EK.
 - Early Kindergarten Students - Students who are not 5 years old by September 1 are only eligible for Early Kindergarten. There will be no exceptions.

The Early Kindergarten acceptance/enrollment will not exceed fifteen students. Parents/caregivers and children who have not participated in the spring screening process will not be eligible for the EK program if the program is full.

The District will use a child's birthdate as the primary criterion to determining eligibility for both programs.

Letter to Parents/Caregivers

Dear Parents and Caregivers:

As you may be aware, last spring the CT General Assembly passed Public Act 23-208, Section 1 which requires that all students entering kindergarten in the 2024-2025 school year turn five years old by September first. This is a departure from the previous requirement that children had to be five years old by January first. I write this letter today to explain the programming that schools in Region 1 have put in place to address this legislation and to best serve our children and parents/caregivers in the Region. We have developed these programs to maximize the opportunity for children turning five at any time in any given year to enroll in Kindergarten.

To accommodate all students who turn five years of age in any given year, North Canaan Elementary School will host two programs, Early Kindergarten and Kindergarten as follows:

- Kindergarten - Students must be five years old by September 1 to be eligible for this program.
- Early Kindergarten - This program is for students whose birthdays fall between September 2nd and December 31st in any given year or for students who may need an additional year of support based on teacher recommendations and Kindergarten screening criteria.

All Kindergarten and Early Kindergarten students will be screened in the spring to gain an understanding of their knowledge and social skills. Students will be placed in Kindergarten or Early Kindergarten based on their date of birth. It is possible that, based on screening and other information, a student may be recommended for Early Kindergarten or a second year of Kindergarten. Parents/caregivers will have discretion regarding the acceptance of that recommendation.

The Early Kindergarten acceptance/enrollment will not exceed fifteen students. Parents/caregivers and children who have not participated in the spring screening process will not be eligible for the EK program if the program is full.

We thank our Boards of Education for approving programs that allow all students to begin some form of Kindergarten during the year in which they turn five. **Please be sure to pay attention to the school websites, Lakeville Journal, The Waterbury Republican and/or school social media for information about Kindergarten screening dates.**

We look forward to welcoming you to our Kindergarten programs in the spring. Please contact the principal of the school in your town with any questions.

Sincerely,

Lisa B. Carter
Superintendent

Guidelines to be Shared with Daycare Facilities

To accommodate students who turn five years of age in any given year, all six schools in Region 1 will host 1 of three 3 possible program models as follows:

Program Model #1 - Cornwall Consolidated School, North Canaan Elementary School, Salisbury Central School, and Sharon Center School

- Kindergarten Program - Students must be five years old by September 1 to be eligible for this program.
- Early Kindergarten Program - This program is for students whose birthdays fall between September 2nd and December 31st in any given year or for students who may need an additional year of support based on the Kindergarten screening criteria.

Program Model #2 - Canaan - Lee H. Kellogg School

- One-Year Kindergarten Program - Students who turn five by September 1 will be enrolled for one year of Kindergarten
- Two-Year Kindergarten Program - Students who turn five between September 2-December 31 will be admitted for a two year Kindergarten program **if there are slots available**.

Program Model #3 - Kent - Kent Center School

- One-Year Kindergarten Program - Students who turn five by September 1 will be enrolled for one year of Kindergarten
- Pre-Kindergarten Program - Students who turn five between September 2-December 31 will be admitted to the Kent Center School **if there are slots available**.
 - If there are no Pr-K slots available, parents may write to the Kent BOE to request that their child be admitted to the Kindergarten program.

All students turning five and wanting to enter one of the aforementioned programs will be screened in the spring to gain an understanding of their knowledge and social skills. Students will be placed in a program based on their date of birth. It is possible that, based on screening and other information, a student may be recommended for Pre-K (Kent), Early Kindergarten (Cornwall, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon) or a second year of Kindergarten (Canaan). Parents/caregivers will have discretion regarding the acceptance of that recommendation.

- Districts hosting Early Kindergarten acceptance/enrollment will not exceed fifteen students. Parents/caregivers and children who have not participated in the spring screening process will not be eligible for the EK program if the program is full.
- Kent Center School will accept students with September 2-December 31 birthdays based on the number of Pre-k slots available for that age group.
- Lee H. Kellogg will accept students with September 2-December 31 birthdays if there are slots available and with the understanding that students are enrolling for two years of Kindergarten.

Press Release - To be distributed after September BOE Meetings

In the spring of 2023, the CT General Assembly passed Public Act 23-208, Section 1 which requires that all students entering kindergarten in the 2024-2025 school year turn five years old by September first. This is a departure from the previous requirement that children had to be five years old by January first. Region 1 administrators and BOEs have collaborated to put into place programs that maximize the opportunity for children turning five at any time in any given year to enroll in Kindergarten to best serve the children and parents/caregivers in the Region.

To accommodate students turning five who turn five years of age in any given year, all six schools in Region 1 will host one of three possible program models as follows:

Program Model #1 - Cornwall Consolidated School, North Canaan Elementary School, Salisbury Central School, and Sharon Center School

- Kindergarten Program - Students must be five years old by September 1 to be eligible for this program.
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 - If there are no Pr-K slots available, parents may write to the Kent BOE to request that their child be admitted to the Kindergarten program.

All students turning five and wanting to enter one of the aforementioned programs will be screened in the spring to gain an understanding of their knowledge and social skills. Students will be placed based on their date of birth. It is possible that, based on screening and other information, a student may be recommended for Pre-K (Kent), Early Kindergarten (Cornwall, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon) or a second year of Kindergarten (Canaan). Parents/caregivers will have discretion regarding the acceptance of that recommendation.

- Districts hosting Early Kindergarten acceptance/enrollment will not exceed fifteen students. Parents/caregivers and children who have not participated in the spring screening process will not be eligible for the EK program if the program is full.
- Kent Center School will accept students with September 2-December 31 birthdays based on the number of Pre-k slots available for that age group.
- Lee H. Kellogg will accept students with September 2-December 31 birthdays if there are slots available and with the understanding that students are enrolling for two years of Kindergarten.

Quotes from an admin, teacher and BOE member here

The Region 1 administration thanks the Pre-k-8 school Boards of Education for approving programs that allow all students to begin some form of Kindergarten during the year in which they turn five. **Parents and caregivers should be sure to pay attention to the school websites, Lakeville Journal, The Waterbury Republican and/or school social media for information about Kindergarten screening dates.**