



Cromwell Public Schools
"Placing Students First"
www.cromwell.k12.ct.us

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November 21, 2023

Dear CPS Families,

We are writing to you to explain new legislation that was recently passed. Effective in the 2024-2025 school year, Public Act 23-208 requires students to be the age of 5 by September 1st to enroll in Kindergarten; this is a change from the previous January 1st date. There is research that supports the idea that there is a significant influence on overall performance and outcomes for students who begin Kindergarten at the age of 5. However, as a district we are aware of the consequences this will have on some families.

Guidance on this change has been released by The State Department of Education which can be reviewed by [clicking this link](#). The current legislation provides an option for parents to request in writing if they would like their child to be provided a waiver to be allowed into school based on a holistic assessment of the student's academic, social, physical, health, behavioral, and communication skills through the use of a screener to assess development in these areas.

As of right now, Cromwell Public School's position is that we will accept students that will turn age 5 by January 1st should a parent like the student to attend school early and they provide us with a written request to be screened. Once the principal of ECS, Mrs. DiTunno, receives your request in writing, we will screen your child and place them appropriately.

It is important to the district that we do not put an undue burden on families and that we provide an equitable learning environment for all students. We have an exceptionally strong staff at our primary school, Edna C. Stevens, and we believe that we have been, and can continue to provide a successful learning environment for students that are age 5 as of January 1st should parents choose to enroll their students.

More information will be forthcoming about this from the district, but we thought it was important to reach out to families now so that they can make plans for next fall. As we learn more, we reserve the right to make adjustments; but we want to be sure we communicate as quickly as possible regarding this legislation as it will have an impact on many families. Please feel free to share this information with whomever you feel would benefit from it.

Sincerely,

Enza Macri, Ed.D.
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