



Brookfield Public Schools



"Create Your Tomorrow"

Dear New Kindergarten Families,

December 4, 2023

Whether you are brand new to Brookfield or are already a part of our district, **WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN AND THE BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS!**

Effective for next school year 2024-2025, Public Act 23-208 requires students to be 5 years old by September 1, 2024 to enroll in Kindergarten. This is a significant change from the long-standing Connecticut practice of turning 5 by January 1st to enroll.

On June 29, 2023, [Public Act 23-208](#) was approved and states, *"public schools 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."* Public Act 23-208 also includes the following age provision: *"a child who has not reached the age of five 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 such child is developmentally appropriate."* Furthermore, guidance for school districts regarding this legislation has been published by [The State Department of Education \(CSDE\)](#).

The Brookfield Public schools recognizes that the timing of this significant change may create various challenges for many families. The Brookfield Public Schools will implement the following transition plan for the 2024 - 2025 school year:

- ALL students who turn age 5 by September 1, 2024, will be eligible for regular kindergarten registration.
- Brookfield Public Schools will consider accepting students who will be turning age 5 by January 1, 2025 as long as the parent/guardian provides a written request to the school principal, Dr. Dave Pepsoski, for their child to be screened for early entry, and the results of the screening show that the child is ready to begin kindergarten.
 - This screening is no different than our annual screening/registration process beginning in March, which is a holistic assessment of the student's academic, social, physical, health, behavioral, and communication skills.
 - In making this request, parents/guardians should consider their child's readiness for kindergarten by reviewing the following chart [Pre-Kindergarten Milestones](#) to make sure their child has or will reach these milestones **BEFORE** the first day of school.
 - Two additional resources available from the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood to assist in making this decision can be found here: [Transitioning to Kindergarten](#) and [Hello Kindergarten](#).

Further information will be forthcoming regarding the process and timeline for the 2024-2025 annual Kindergarten Registration from the Candlewood Lake Elementary School administration.

We encourage you to please share this information with other families of potential kindergarten students.

Sincerely,

Dr. John W. Barile
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. David Pepsoski
Principal, Candlewood Lake Elementary School

The sole reason for the existence of our profession is the student