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BRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Branford Families,

Beginning next school year, there is [new legislation](#) changing the age of eligibility for Kindergarten entry. The legislation requires that students entering Kindergarten be five years of age on or before September 1st. Additionally, there is a provision allowing parents to submit a written request for a waiver that would permit early enrollment. To qualify for early enrollment the child must turn five by December 31st of that school year and must also meet the appropriate threshold for kindergarten readiness as determined by the Branford Public Schools. Additional information provided by the CT State Department of Education can be found [here](#).

The spirit of this legislation stems from research indicating that students who enter kindergarten before they are developmentally ready often struggle socially and/or academically. Therefore, the waiver process for early enrollment will be thoughtful. Caregivers are encouraged to consider developmental milestones ([linked here](#)) to inform their decision to request early entry into Kindergarten.

The district has identified the Brigance Early Childhood Screen III (3–5 years) assessment as the primary method of assessment in determining early kindergarten eligibility. The Brigance is a reliable measure that provides age based, normed results. This means that the assessment can be given at any time and the results are interpreted based on the child's chronological age (years and months). Therefore, delaying testing will not change a child's results as expectations increase in tandem with their chronological age. This assessment will be administered to children being considered for early entry into the BPS Kindergarten program to ensure they are developmentally ready to meet grade level expectations. The expectation is that children admitted to Kindergarten will demonstrate advanced developmental skills. The decision indicating the District's determination of Kindergarten readiness is final.

Registration for all grade levels will open February 5, 2024. Please see our [registration website](#), which will be updated on or after 2.5.2024, for details. Children currently enrolled in BPS school-based Pre-K

programs will be permitted to enroll for a second Pre-K year if they do not meet the new eligibility requirements. This exception is only permitted for the 2024-2025 school year.

Please complete the [Kindergarten Survey \(Español, नेपाली\)](#) by March 1st if your child will turn five years of age after September 1, 2024 and by December 31, 2024 and:

- you would like your child to be assessed for early entry into Kindergarten; OR
- you would like to request an additional year in BPS Pre-K (for current BPS pre-K students).

If you have any questions about this process, please reach out to the principal at your child's future school or the Elementary Curriculum Coordinator, Lauren Skultety at lskultety@branfordschools.org.

Sincerely,



Christopher J. Tranberg, Ph.D.,
Superintendent of Schools



Allison K. Moran
Assistant Superintendent of Schools