

January 8, 2024

Dear BPS Families,

We are writing to explain new legislation that was recently passed by the State of Connecticut, which will be effective for the 2024-2025 school year. Public Act 23-208 requires students to be the age of 5 by September 1st to enroll in kindergarten. The guidance from the State Department of Education is [linked here](#) for your review. The current legislation provides an option for parents and guardians to request in writing if they would prefer their child to be granted a waiver to enroll in school early based on an assessment of the student's academic, social, behavioral, health, and communication skills.

Bristol Public Schools will work together with all families to ensure that each child has the best option available to them. Please follow the process outlined below if you would like to be considered for a waiver option:

1. Contact your school principal in writing.
2. Schedule a meeting for you and your child to meet with school staff and interact with other students. A screener will be used to determine a student's readiness for kindergarten.
3. A decision will be communicated within 30 days after the meeting.

We want to ensure families that we are here to work collaboratively through your options with you. If a waiver option is not available for your family, we will be discussing options to support your student and family moving forward through community Pre-K options and/or the Edgewood Pre-K Academy.

We recognize that you will be making plans for your child's schooling for next year in the coming months. To ensure you and your child have the best schooling option available, we will follow the below timeline:

- From January 3-March 29, 2024, we will meet with families of students with birth dates falling between September 1, 2019-December 30, 2019, if you are seeking a waiver for enrollment in kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year.
- We will communicate with each family that requested a waiver and screening beginning Friday, February 2, 2024.
- We will discuss the best options for students and families on a rolling basis.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine Carbone".

Catherine Carbone, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carly Fortin".

Carly Fortin
Chief Academic Officer