

Ages of Attendance

District schools shall be open to all children five years of age and over who reside in the district and reach the age of five by December 31st 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 sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression.

Parents and those who have the care of children age five to eighteen years of age inclusive are obligated by Connecticut law to require their children to attend public day school or its equivalent in the district in which such child resides, unless the parent or person having control of such child is able to show that the child is elsewhere receiving equivalent instruction in the studies taught in the public schools. Students under age eighteen are subject to mandatory attendance laws unless they are at least seventeen and their parent/guardian, or other person having guardianship of the child, consents to such child's removal from school. The parent or person shall exercise this option by personally appearing at the school to sign a withdrawal form. Such withdrawal form shall include an attestation from a 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. If a child is eighteen years of age or older, he/she is not required to attend school.

The enrollment process shall be focused on obtaining only the information deemed necessary to establish residency and age. The District shall not request other information as a condition of enrollment or state in its policies or on its websites or otherwise, that other information is required to enroll children. The District shall immediately enroll a homeless child and allow such student to attend school even if the student is unable to produced records normally required for enrollment. Additional data collection may occur, but it must be complete in such a manner that does not interfere with the enrollment of a child in school.

The District, when determining residency, shall not request documentation of citizenship or immigration status of a child or the child's parents/guardians. The Board believes such documentation is not relevant to establishing residency.

In the establishment of residency, the Board will accept such documentation as, but not limited to, a lease agreement, mortgage document, property tax record rent receipt, home owners insurance, rental insurance, current utility bill, current proof of government benefits, CT driver's license, automobile registration or insurance. An Affidavit of Residence, properly executed, shall also be acceptable.

The parent or person having legal guardianship 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 by December 31st of any school year. The parent or person having legal guardianship 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 by December 31st of any school year. The parent or person having legal guardianship 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 having legal guardianship with information on the educational opportunities available in the school system.

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Each child entering the district schools 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. Proof of domicile will also be requested.

The above requirements are not to serve as barriers to immediate enrollment of students, designated as homeless or foster children as required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the McKinney-Vento Act as amended by the ESSA. The District shall work with the local child welfare agency, the school last attended, or other relevant agencies to obtain necessary enrollment documentation. The District shall immediately enroll a homeless student and allow such student to attend school even if the student is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment.

The parent/guardian of any child who is denied admission to school, or an emancipated minor, a student eighteen years of age or older, a homeless child or youth, or an unaccompanied youth who is denied schooling, or an agent or officer charged with the enforcement of attendance laws may request, in writing, a hearing by the Board of Education. Such hearing may be conducted by the entire Board of Education, or by a subcommittee of three Board members, or by a local impartial hearing Board of one or more persons not members of the Board of Education.

Children who have attained the age of seventeen and who have voluntarily terminated enrollment in the district's schools and subsequently seek readmission may be denied readmission for up to ninety school days from the date of such termination, unless such child seeks readmission to the District not later than ten (10) school days after such termination in which case the Board shall provide school accommodations to such child not later than three school days after such child seeks readmission.

Early Admission

Parents/guardians must make a formal request for early admission no later than June 1 of the calendar year in which the child would be admitted to the school. Since research on early admission to kindergarten has demonstrated that it is a "high risk" decision, only those children who have attained their fourth birthday between January 1st and June 30th will be considered for early admission. The student being considered for early admission must exhibit evidence of advanced (typically two standard deviations above the mean) intelligence and adaptive behavior from a standardized assessment administered in the district.

Such testing shall guide the Superintendent or his/her designee in the acceptance or rejection of the request. The programmatic decision of the Superintendent or his/her designee in such instances shall be final.

Provisions for Special Education

According to Connecticut General Statute 1-76d(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.

Ages of Attendance, continued

Alternative School Placement

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. 5111 – Admission Placement)
(cf. 5118.3 – Children in Foster Care)
(cf. 6146 – Graduation Requirements)

(cf. 5118.1 – Homeless Students)
(cf. 5112 – Ages of Attendance)

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.
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, PA 09-6 (September Special Session) and PA 18-15.
10-186 Duties of local and regional boards of education re school attendance. Hearings. (Amended by PA 19-179 An Act Concerning 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.
10-261 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 (as amended by PA 98-243)
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (PL 107-110 Sec. 1032) 42 U.S.C. §11431-11435, as amended by the ESSA, P.L. 114-95
Federal Register: McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children & Youths Program, Vol. 81 No. 52, 3/17/2016.