

Here are some reasons why a child should attend kindergarten:

- ❑ Kindergarten instruction promotes learning of many skills that are the foundation of the curriculum through Grade 12. For example, early reading instruction is especially important to all learners.
- ❑ If a child is an English Language Learner, there is support in kindergarten programs to help the child learn English at an early age.
- ❑ A problem that may affect a child's ability to learn can be identified in kindergarten. An age-eligible child who is attending kindergarten will have that problem identified and will receive appropriate services. The earlier the problem is identified, the sooner the child can receive special services that may help overcome the problem and improve his or her ability to achieve throughout the school years.
- ❑ According to research, keeping an age-eligible child out of kindergarten does not result in any long-term benefits.

Reasons Your Child Should Attend

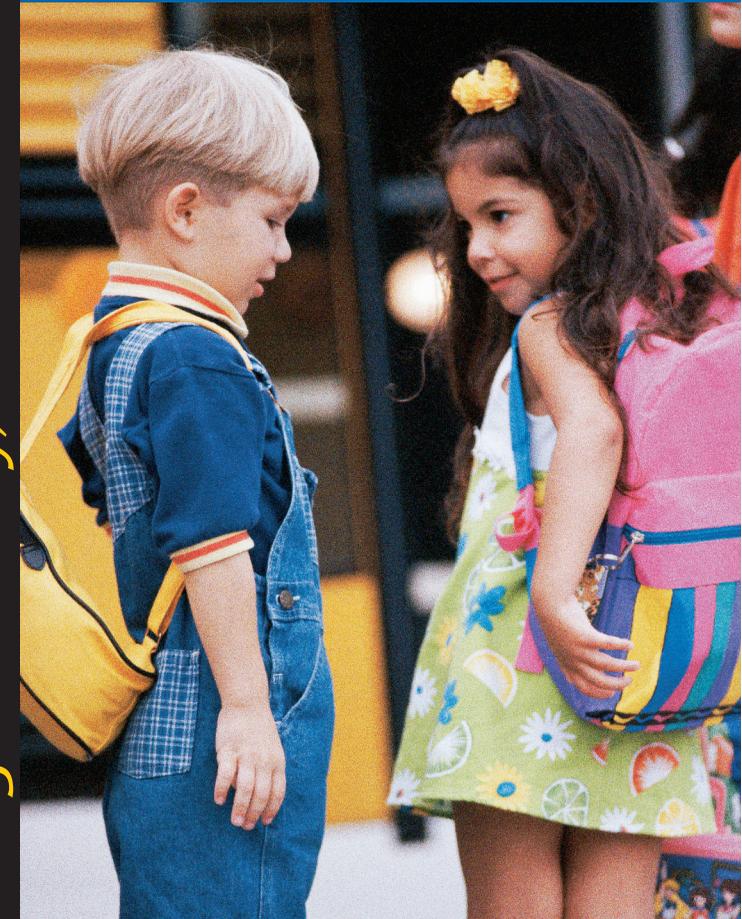
Kindergarten Entry, Enrollment and Attendance



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**Bureau of Early Childhood,
Career and Adult Education**

What Parents Should Know About Kindergarten Entry, Enrollment and Attendance



**Connecticut State
Department of Education**

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As children approach kindergarten age, parents often raise various questions about kindergarten entry, enrollment and attendance. This brochure answers some frequently asked questions.

Q: At what age can my child enter kindergarten?

A: If your child is 5 years old on or before the first of January of any year, he or she can enter kindergarten. Connecticut law requires public schools to be open to all children who reach the age of 5 on or before the first of January of any school year. [C.G.S. Sec. 10-15c]*

Q: If my child is not 5 years old until after the first of January of the school year, can he or she still enter kindergarten?

A: It is the local Board of Education's decision to admit your child before he or she is age-eligible for kindergarten. [C.G.S. Sec. 10-15c]

**C.G.S. refers to the Connecticut General Statutes*

Q: If my child is 5 on or before the first of January of the school year, do I have to send my child to kindergarten?

A: Parents of a child who is 5 years of age have the option not to send their child to school until the child is 6 or 7 years of age. If they choose not to send their child when the child is age-eligible, they must go to the school district office and sign an option form. [C.G.S. Sec. 10-184]

Q: Does my child have to be tested in order to enter kindergarten?

A: There is no state law that requires public schools to test children before they enter kindergarten in the public schools. Any testing that is done at kindergarten entry is a local school district's decision. It is important to know that your child cannot be excluded from school when he or she is age-eligible regardless of the results of any test given by the school.

Q: How long is the school year for kindergarten children?

A: Public schools must provide half-day kindergarten programs for at least 180 days for 450 hours of actual schoolwork during each year. If a public school chooses to offer full-day kindergarten, it must provide 900 hours of schoolwork for at least 180 days. [C.G.S. Sec. 10-15]

Q: Do schools provide school bus transportation for kindergarten?

A: There is no mandate by law for kindergarten students to receive transportation. The law requires schools to make a determination if the provision of transportation is reasonable and desirable in order to provide for the safety of the child based on the child's age and condition. [C.G.S. Sec. 10-220(a) and Sec. 10-186]

Q: Can my child attend full-day kindergarten?

A: Yes, if the school that your child will attend provides full-day kindergarten for all children.

Q: Should I hold my child out of kindergarten even though my child is age-eligible?

A: The Connecticut State Department of Education strongly encourages parents to send their children to kindergarten when they are age-eligible: 5 years old on or before January 1 of any school year.

However, many parents consider withholding their child from kindergarten due to concerns that the kindergarten program may not be suitable; that their child may be among the youngest in the class or may not be "socially mature enough" for the experience; or that their child is not yet "ready for kindergarten."

Sometimes these concerns are expressed by staff members in the child's preschool program. Please know, however, that all school districts are responsible for meeting the needs of all kindergarten students, regardless of their age or stage of development.

