

ADMISSION TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT OR BEFORE AGE FIVE

5118.2

The Manchester Board of Education (the “Board”) complies with its legal obligation to cause each child five years of age and over and under eighteen years of age who is not a high school graduate and is residing within the Board’s jurisdiction to attend school in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 10-184.

Effective July 1, 2024, the Manchester Public Schools (the “District”) shall be open to resident children five years of age and over who reach age five on or before the first day of September of any school year. For children who will not reach the age of five on or before the first day of September of the school year, the child’s parent or guardian may submit a written request to the principal of the school seeking early admission to the District. Upon receipt of such written request, a District Assessment Team will assess such child to determine whether admitting the child is developmentally appropriate. The District Assessment Team shall consist of the Deputy Superintendent or his/her designee; Director of Teaching and Learning; Reading Consultant; Speech and Language Pathologist; and Other Staff Members Deemed Necessary by the Superintendent. For decisions relating to early admission to the District, the decision of the District Assessment Team shall be final.

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for developing administrative regulations in furtherance of this policy. Such regulations shall identify procedures for the receipt and processing of requests for early admission to the District and for assessing whether early admission of a child is developmentally appropriate.

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes

- 10-15c Discrimination by public schools prohibited. School attendance for five-year-olds
- 10-220 Duties of boards of education
- 10-221 Board of education to prescribe rules, policies, and procedures
- 10-184 Duties of parents. School attendance age requirements

Public Act 23-208, “An Act Making Certain Revisions to the Education Statutes.”

ADOPTED: _____

REVISED: _____

10/3/23

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS REGARDING EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN

In accordance with state law, effective July 1, 2024, the Manchester Public Schools (the “District”) are open to all children five years of age and over who reach age five on or before September 1 of any school year. A child who has not reached the age of five on or before September 1 of the school year may be admitted to kindergarten only (1) upon a written request by the parent or guardian of the child to the principal of the school in which the child would be enrolled based on District residency requirements, and (2) following an assessment of the child, conducted by the District Assessment Team, to ensure that admitting the child is developmentally appropriate (“Early Admission Process”). The Early Admission Process shall be available only for a child who will reach the age of five on or after September 2 and before January 1 of the school year.

I. Assessment

- A. The District will assess a child who does not meet the statutory age requirement if admission of such a child is requested in writing by a child’s parent or guardian. Such a request must be sent by electronic mail to the principal of the school in which the child would be enrolled, based on District residency requirements (the “Building Principal”), and must be received by the Building Principal no later than ***the first Friday in June prior to the start of the school year.***
- B. The District Assessment Team shall consist of the Deputy Superintendent or his/her designee; Director of Teaching and Learning; Reading Consultant; Speech and Language Pathologist; and Other Staff Members Deemed Necessary by the Superintendent.
- C. The “District Assessment Team”) will conduct an assessment of the child to gather information pertaining to the question of whether admitting the child is developmentally appropriate.
- D. The District Assessment Team will take a holistic approach to assess a child’s developmental level in a variety of developmental domains (e.g. cognitive, social-emotional, physical development and health, etc.). The District Assessment Team will use the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) as a guide to assessing a child’s developmental level.
- E. The District Assessment Team will obtain information from the parent or guardian as part of the assessment.
- F. The District Assessment Team will gather and consider relevant information from the child’s preschool teacher/early care provider, if necessary and available, as part of the assessment.
- G. The District Assessment Team will conduct the assessment in a manner that is designed to be culturally and linguistically appropriate.
- H. All requests for early admission into transitional kindergarten must be submitted by the fourth Friday in June or before the school year begins, whichever comes first.
- I. The District Early Admission Process will be administered on behalf of all schools in the District that operate kindergarten classrooms.

II. Children with Disabilities

- A. All parents and guardians, including those of children with disabilities, may request early entry to kindergarten pursuant to the Early Admission Process in Section I.
- B. For a child with an Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), the Early Admission Process will be individualized and in alignment with the documented IEP accommodations/modifications in Section 5 (Supplementary Aids and Services) and Section 11 (District and State Testing).
- C. For a child with a Section 504 plan, the Early Admission Process will be individualized and in alignment with the accommodations documented in the child’s 504 plan.

III. Notification

The District will strive to notify parents and guardians who have requested their child be granted early admission to kindergarten as soon as possible.

Legal Reference:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-15c	Discrimination by public schools prohibited. School attendance for five-year-olds
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-220	Duties of boards of education
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-221	Board of Education to prescribe rules, policies, and procedures
Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-184	Duties of parents. School attendance age requirements

Public Act 23-208, “An Act Making Certain Revisions to the Education Statutes.”

Connecticut State Department of Education, *New Entry Age for Kindergarten: Considerations for Connecticut Schools*, October 23, 2023.