



February 5, 2024

Dear Ellington Family,

This letter is to inform families of the Connecticut legislature's passing of PA 23-208 which adjusts the minimum age for entering kindergarten. Under the new law, a child must turn five years old on or before September 1st of the academic year for which the child is being registered. Previously, the law had a cutoff date of January 1st.

The spirit of the statutory change is to better ensure the readiness of kindergarten students statewide. Kindergarten readiness has increasingly been an issue, especially since the significant disruption of typical early life activities relative to the State's response to COVID.

Although the law does remain unchanged in its allowance for exceptions to the September 1st cutoff date, the Ellington Public Schools (EPS) does encourage families to register their children as prescribed by the law. Should families wish to consider an exception, which involves an assessment process conducted by certified Ellington educators, they should inform the school district by March 31st by beginning the [EPS' Kindergarten Registration Process](#). This will better prepare the school district and families for the kindergarten orientation/screening at the end of April.

This timing of this law change does create some very challenging issues for Connecticut school systems and families alike. Some families are now faced with paying for an additional year of costly daycare. School districts, with challenging budget cycles, will have difficulty projecting their staffing needs based on student enrollment. Also of note, it is anticipated that the General Assembly may address changes in the law during the upcoming legislative session. The results of those discussions may not be known until as late as May 2024.

Please forward this letter to any Ellington families who may have children just entering the school district.

More details to come, questions regarding the new legislation may be directed to Oliver Barton, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction at obarton@ellingtonschools.net.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Nicol", is written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Scott Nicol
Superintendent of Schools