



Agency Legislative Proposal

2026 Session

General Information

Agency	Dept. of Education
Proposal Name	Modification to Kindergarten Entry Requirements
Legislative Liaison	Laura Stefon
Division Requesting Proposal	N/A
Drafter	Charles E. Hewes

Overview

Brief Summary of Proposal

This proposal modifies the language to the school age entry requirements permitting children to enter school before age five and upon a written request by a parent or guardian and an assessment by a school administrator and certified staff member.

What problem is this proposal looking to solve?

Since its inception, the requirement to assess children under the age of five whose parents have requested their child be admitted to school has created inequity across towns and significant tensions between families and schools, often times when a school is engaging with a family for the first time.

How does the proposal solve the problem?

By removing the requirement of a school to assess a child upon written request by a parent, all students in Connecticut will have equal access to kindergarten by age five regardless of the town in which they reside. Furthermore, by removing the provision permitting entry into kindergarten prior to age five based upon assessment results, it removes the possibility of contentious interactions between families and schools about assessment results.

Section by section summary:

Section #(s)	Section Summary
10-15c(a)	This section requires school staff to, upon written request of a family, to conduct an assessment of a child under age five to determine the child's readiness for kindergarten.
Statutory Reference	[N/a]

Background

- New Proposal Resubmission

If resubmission, please provide details below. Please also note any changes made since the last submission:

Bill #(s)	Reason bill(s) did not move forward
	Sections 7 & 8 of HB 7009 are being resubmitted this year, as the bill ultimately did not pass in the Senate on the final day of session.

Have there been any changes in federal laws or regulations that make this legislation necessary?

No

Have there been any changes in state laws or regulations that make this legislation necessary?

No

Has this proposal or a similar proposal been implemented in other states?

Yes

Have certain constituencies called for this proposal?

Yes The Connecticut State Department of Education receives regular complaints from parents regarding this legislation arguing the statute leads to unfair, inequitable, or arbitrary decision-making on behalf of schools when determining the readiness of children under age five.

Interagency Impact

Check here if this proposal does NOT impact other agencies

Agency	N/A
Contact	N/A
Date Contacted	N/A
Status	N/A
Open Issues	N/A

Fiscal Impact

No Fiscal Impact

Budget Option Submitted

Include the section number(s) which have a fiscal impact and the anticipated impact:

State

No

Municipal

No

Federal

No

Other Information

If there is any additional information we should know, please detail below: N/A

Legislative Language

Insert fully drafted bill below. Please use standard legislative drafting considerations, as published by LCO [here](#).

Sec.1. Section 10-15c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2026):

(a) The public schools shall be open to all children five years of age and over who reach age five on or before the first day of September of any school year, and each such child shall have, and shall be so advised by the appropriate school authorities, an equal opportunity to participate in the activities, programs and courses of study offered in such public schools, at such time as the child becomes eligible to participate in such activities, programs and courses of study, without discrimination on account of race, as defined in section 46a-51, color, sex, gender identity or expression, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability; provided a child who has not reached the age of five on or before the first day of September of the school year may be admitted if the local or regional board of education adopts an early admission policy that permits such child to be admitted (1) upon a written request by the parent or guardian of such child to the principal of the school in which such child would be enrolled, and (2) following an assessment of such child, conducted by such principal and an appropriate certified staff member of the school, to ensure that admitting such child is developmentally appropriate.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) of this section shall be deemed to amend other provisions of the general statutes with respect to curricula, facilities or extracurricular activities.

Sec. 2. Section 10-15c of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2027):

(a) The public schools shall be open to all children five years of age and over who reach age five on or before the first day of September of any school year, and each such child shall have, and shall be so advised by the appropriate school authorities, an equal opportunity to participate in the activities, programs and courses of study offered in such public schools, at such time as the child becomes eligible to participate in such activities, programs and courses of study, without discrimination on account of race, as defined in section 46a-51, color, sex, gender identity or expression, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability. [; provided a child who has not reached the age of five on or before the first day of September of the school year may be admitted (1) upon a written request by the parent or guardian of such child to the principal of the school in which such child would be enrolled, and (2) following an assessment of such child, conducted

by such principal and an appropriate certified staff member of the school, to ensure that admitting such child is developmentally appropriate.]

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) of this section shall be deemed to amend other provisions of the general statutes with respect to curricula, facilities or extracurricular activities.