

# SIMSBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2019-2020

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### *What do I need to do to register my child?*

If you supplied census information, your eligible child's name will be forwarded to the proper school. You can add your child's name to the [Preschool Census](#) survey on our website through January 7, 2019 or call the Enrollment Office at 860-323-8140 with your information. A Kindergarten Packet with all of the forms and information necessary to register your child will be given to you at the Kindergarten Orientation Meetings held at the elementary schools during the month of February. If you are unable to attend the meeting, a packet will be mailed to you. Dates and times of the meetings will be mailed to eligible families from each school in January. An information booklet will be included in the Kindergarten Packet with information on school policies, timelines, bus safety, and transportation. Please take the time to read it, and adhere to the date for returning the forms.

### *Do I have to send my child to Kindergarten the year that he/she is eligible?*

If you are not planning to enroll your child in next year's K class in the Simsbury Public Schools, you should be aware of state legislation, Public Act 98-243, An Act Concerning Early Reading Success, which lowers the compulsory education age from age seven to age five.

It also permits parents/guardians to withhold their child from a formal education program at age five for one year, and then again at age six for one year. At age seven, the child must be enrolled in an education program as described in Section 10-184 of the Connecticut General Statutes and no additional delays are permitted.

To exercise the option, the parent or legal guardian of the child, must personally appear at the elementary school office and sign an option form; the district must provide the parent/guardian with information on the educational opportunities available in the district.

***If I don't send my child to Kindergarten, but intend to send him/her to first grade in Simsbury, will you notify me of registration dates?***

We will not have record of your child if you send him/her to Kindergarten elsewhere. Please call the Enrollment Office at the Board of Education offices at 860-323-8140, during March or April of your child's kindergarten year and arrange for registration for entry into grade one.

***What if I am unsure as to the readiness of my child to enter this year's K class?***

Please call your elementary school and speak with the Principal to express your concerns. He/she will be able to advise you of the options and personnel available to you in determining this choice.

***How are bus stops determined?***

Board of Education policy sets the mileage requirements for all students in Simsbury. Kindergarten students may walk up to .5 mile to a bus stop. Students who live in the walking area of each elementary school will be assigned to a bus only for their kindergarten year. If you choose not to use the bus, please notify the Transportation Office at the BOE in writing.

***Will you transport my child to his/her daycare provider?***

Wherever possible, we will transport children to authorized stops on our regularly traveled routes. According to Board of Education policy, we will not re-route buses to pass daycare providers that are not already on the bus route.

***Are there other carriers who can transport my child?***

There are private carriers who will transport your students. Parents/guardians are responsible for arranging that transportation and for its cost. Many of the day-care providers utilize the private carriers and can assist you in determining your needs.

***Why does my child have to cross my street to either board or exit the bus?***

We make every effort to route our buses so that there is a minimal amount of crossing in front of the bus; however, it is sometimes impossible. There is a specific safety procedure in place for drivers, parents/guardians, and students. We ask that both you and your child wait for the driver to signal the time to cross. The mirrors on the bus have been placed so that the driver can view the traffic behind him/her and coming toward him/her. **NO ONE SHOULD MOVE UNTIL THE DRIVER SIGNALS.** The drivers are trained in this procedure, and this procedure is in effect on all streets in Simsbury.

***What should I do if I suspect that my child has a developmental delay or disability?***

Preschool screenings are held four times a year. Parents can request more information by calling the Simsbury Public Schools Department of Special Services at 860-658-3873.

The Preschool Screening process takes 45 minutes to an hour and involves both you and your child. Your child will play "games" (which target articulation, language, reasoning and motor skills) with members of the Preschool Team. At the same time, you and another staff member will discuss your child's self-help skills and social-emotional development as well as review the group experience form.

The Simsbury Preschool Team includes a Speech/Language Pathologist, an Occupational Therapist, a Physical Therapist, a Preschool Special Education Teacher, a School Psychologist and an Administrator.

This is just a screening, *not an evaluation*. It screens for the presence of possible developmental delays. This screening will result in a determination as to whether your child is functioning within normal limits or is in need of further evaluation.

Sometimes a visit to your child's nursery school or daycare setting is needed to complete the screening process. You will be asked to sign a permission form before this can be done.

Direct contact from your child's pediatrician is always welcome.

### **A FINAL NOTE**

If your question has not been answered here, please feel free to call any of the elementary school offices or call the Enrollment Office at the Board of Education, 860-323-8140. We look forward to welcoming you and your child to the Simsbury Public Schools.