

Our Pre-K teachers use

Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS) as their guide to helping students get ready for Kindergarten. These standards identify what children from birth to age 5 should know and be able to do. Pre-K classes have direct instruction in readiness skills, allow for innovation, creativity and to build student self-confidence. Children of all readiness levels are provided with appropriate experiences in a safe and nurturing atmosphere.

Canterbury Public Schools follows guidelines and procedures compliant with the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act (IDEA). The school-based program provides for language, social and play-based skills.

Children enter the program by either being identified for special education services or through a peer model screening process.

Determining Eligibility for Early Childhood Special Education

Early Childhood Special Education

<https://portal.ct.gov/OEC>

<https://portal.ct.gov/Services/Education/Early-Childhood-Education>

According to the Center for Early Childhood and the State of Connecticut, children may be referred for the consideration of special education services by the family, Birth-to-Three clinicians, medical providers, school staff members or others. The school district determines eligibility for early childhood special education during a Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meeting using information available from Birth- to-Three or after conducting their own evaluation. Once the evaluation process is complete, the PPT will review the results of the evaluation and determine whether the child is eligible for special education and related services.

Not all children who were eligible for Birth-to-Three services are eligible for early childhood special education through the PreK program or itinerant services.

Birth-to-three transition to Pre-K

State of Connecticut

Early Childhood Education

<https://portal.ct.gov/OEC>

There is a process for parents/guardians to follow if they are in a position to have their child move to a Pre-K program. Parents/guardians of a child in the Birth-to-Three program will have a Transition Conference at a school at least 3 months (90) days before their child turns three or

as early as 9 months prior to age 3. The parents/guardians meet with their Birth-to-three team to develop a plan for transition that the Birth-to-three team, and the school district will follow in the next few months. It will include a plan to determine the child's eligibility for special education services through the school district if the parents/guardians request a determination of eligibility.

Preschool screenings

<https://www.ctoec.org/early-childhood-screening-and-assessment/>

State of Connecticut Early Childhood Education

<https://portal.ct.gov/OEC>

As part of the CT State Child Find process, a process that identifies children ages three to five who may require special education services through the public schools, Canterbury Public Schools conducts screenings to determine if a child's skills are appropriate for their age or if further observation, interventions, or evaluations are indicated. PreK screening is available to all Canterbury children who are Canterbury residents. Children must be age eligible for the upcoming 3-year-old program at the time of the screening and cannot be Kindergarten age eligible.

The screening team will be made up of a physical therapist, special education teacher, a speech and language pathologist, a school psychologist and may include a school nurse or health professional. The screening evaluates the student's skills in speech, language, basic literacy skills, and motor skills.

Information regarding screenings and referrals can be found in local pediatricians' offices, community preschools, private daycare facilities, and other town offices.

If a family has a concern regarding their child's progress or development, they can contact the persons listed in the pamphlets or contact the Pre-school Screening Team at their local school and request an appointment. The team typically holds screenings in the spring for all interested and eligible children.

State of Connecticut link to Early Childhood information:

<https://www.ctoec.org/early-childhood-screening-and-assessment/>

Peer Models

Children who are three years old on or before September 1st of the year they enter the PK – 3 program and be toilet-trained may qualify as a peer model.

Effective July of 2024 – for students to be selected as peer models, they would need to be four years old on or before September 1st of the year they enter the PreK-4 program. Peer models are selected through a lottery. Transportation must be provided by families.

Connecticut Office of Early Childhood is a good source of information about programs for our youngest learners.

Canterbury Elementary School

P-K follows the regular school calendar.

[Insert link to "What is early childhood education and why is it so important?" UMass Global](#)