

GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

12 Littleville Road Huntington, MA 01050

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Preschool Screening and registration for the fall

Huntington – Free, developmental screenings for young children will be held at Littleville Elementary School in the afternoon on May 21 and in the morning on May 24. The deadline for signing up for a preschool screening is Wednesday, May 16; please call Karen Malinowski at 685-1017 for a time slot.

Any child age three (by May 24, 2017) to five who will not be entering Kindergarten in September, may attend a screening. The screening is for children who live in the Gateway hilltowns (Blandford, Chester, Huntington, Middlefield, Montgomery and Russell). Children must live in the district; school choice does not apply to preschool. Children who are already enrolled in a Gateway preschool program do not need to participate in screening/registration.

In the 2018-19 school year, Gateway will offer free morning or afternoon preschool sessions at Littleville and Chester Elementary Schools, Tuesday through Friday. In addition, Gateway is offering a new, free, full day preschool option, Monday through Friday from 8:45 a.m. – 3:20 p.m. at Gateway Middle/High School. Families enrolled in the full day program will have the option of paying for before and after school care at Littleville's Wrap Around Program.

Children must take part in a screening in order to be part of half-day or full day preschool next year. Screenings are by appointment only and will take approximately one hour.

Preschool screenings are given to identify any concerns that parents might have about their child's development. Additionally, whether there are concerns or not, screening is a requirement for registration in a Gateway preschool program. Screenings include a brief check of skills in the following areas: cognitive/thinking skills, speech and language skills, fine and gross motor skills, social/emotional skills and preschool readiness skills. In addition, parents are asked to fill out a questionnaire; no additional paperwork is needed at the screening. Parents will be notified in writing about the screening results by mid-June, and any next steps will be recommended.

A Preschool Parent Information Night for families who wish to learn more about Gateway's Integrated Preschool Program has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 8 from 6 – 7 p.m. at Littleville. Free childcare will be provided.

Because demand for preschool often exceeds the number of eligible slots in the program, a lottery is drawn to determine preschool students. Lottery applications for the 2018-2019 will be available at the Preschool Screenings. Parents will be notified by mid-June if their child is accepted for enrollment. A screening is required whether or not parents have a developmental concern.

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