# VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent
30 Park Street • P.O. Box 600
Vernon, CT 06066-0600
Fax (860) 870-6005
Website: www.vernonpublicschools.org

**Joseph Macary, Ed.D.**
*Superintendent of Schools*
(860) 870-6000 x4660

**Robert Testa**
*Assistant Superintendent*
(860) 870-6000 x4680

To: Families with Incoming Kindergarteners
From: Joseph Macary, Superintendent of Schools
Date: March 20, 2026
Re: Kindergarten Entry Age & Enrollment

Vernon Public Schools never wavers from its district core beliefs: advocate a "whole child" approach to student learning, maximize student performance by setting high expectations, and integrate family and community with the education system. Beginning in the 2024-2025 academic year, the Connecticut State Department of Education mandated a new entry age for kindergarten students. Incoming kindergarten students will need to have turned 5 years old on or before September 1st to be automatically eligible for kindergarten. (CT Public Act 23-208). This is a change from the previous kindergarten cutoff date of January 1st. Kindergarten registration window is from March 1, 2026 to June 1, 2026, for all Vernon Elementary Schools. The Vernon Public Schools does support educational research to have an earlier school start date.

Students with birth dates from September 2, 2021, to January 1, 2026, will now be enrolled in the 2027-2028 academic year unless they are granted an exception. If your child does not meet the new entry cutoff date, they may still be admitted into kindergarten with (1) a written request from the parent or guardian, and (2) an assessment completed by the school that determines admitting the child to kindergarten would be developmentally appropriate. ('New Entry Age for Kindergarten' Memo from CSDE & COEC). The Vernon Public Schools has established a comprehensive assessment for those families who choose to pursue a waiver. This formative assessment will be used to determine the developmental appropriateness of student's being considered for early entry to kindergarten based on a comprehensive screening of the student's academic, social, physical, behavioral and communication skills

Incoming kindergarteners who receive special education services under the IDEA (Individual with Disabilities Education Act) and do not meet the new entry age cutoff should refer to their child's Planning and Placement Team (PPT). Similarly, for all students, parents or guardians must request, in writing, a waiver for their child to attend kindergarten in the upcoming school year. Kindergarten waivers should be made in writing and directed to your child's elementary school administration. School personnel will meet with families to discuss the assessment results and waiver request based on the child's developmental potential for kindergarten.

Any questions or inquiries should be directed to the Office of Family, School and Community Partnerships at 860-870-6000 x4651. For additional information from the CT Office of Early Childhood: Check out https://www.ctoec.org/news/change-kindergarten-entry-age-fall-2024 and information from the CT State Department of Education website. Thank you for your continued support and consideration.

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Digest/2023-24/New-Kindergarten-Age-Information-72423.pdf