



Fairfield Public Schools

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**Kindergarten Admissions**  
School Year 2025-2026



# Kindergarten Entry Age

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Public Act 23-208, Section 1(a) changed the cut off date from January 1 to September 1 of any given year for children to be 5 years old when enrolling in kindergarten.

Students enrolling in kindergarten, beginning in 2024-25 must be **five** (5) years old on or before September 1, 2024.

If a child will turn five from September 2 and beyond, s/he can enroll in kindergarten the following school year.

# Exceptions - Waiver Requirements

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If a child does **not** turn 5 by September 1, but will turn five by or on December 31 of any given school year, s/he may only be admitted to kindergarten *if*:

**a written request is submitted to the district from the parent/guardian; *and***  
**an assessment is completed by the school district which determines that admitting the child to kindergarten would be developmentally appropriate.**

## [Domain Specific Readiness Skills](#)

FPS Website>Student Registration> Kindergarten 2025-2026 > 2025-2026  
Kindergarten Domain Specific Readiness Skills

# FPS Waiver Assessment

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Fairfield will implement a revised assessment process for the 2025-26 school year if your child is four years old after September 1, 2025 and the parent is seeking early admissions.

The assessment will include:

- A. An individually administered assessment.
- B. An observation in a kindergarten classroom.
- C. Parental informational input of observed behaviors and academic performance.

Fairfield Public Schools certified staff will complete parts A and B.

# The Individual Assessment

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Fairfield will use the [Speed DIAL-4](#)  
(Developmental Indicators for Assessment of Learning)

Individually administered

Approximately 20 minutes in duration

Assesses motor, language, and concept domains

Measures skills that are predictive of academic success

Aligned with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) standards and domains

Reports results by chronological age in two-month intervals via percentiles

# The Observation

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Children will be placed in classroom groups with FPS certified staff where a standardized classroom protocol will be implemented.

*Sample* observational indicators of kindergarten expectations:

- Recognize names
- Interactions in circle time
- Responses to questions
- Behavioral responses (e.g., sitting, turn-taking, attentiveness)
- Station activities (e.g., letters, manipulatives, art/drawing)

# Waiver Process and Procedures

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Parents who are seeking an assessment will follow the following procedures:

- Go to the FPS Website > Registration
- Send a letter of intent, indicating that your child is developmentally ready for kindergarten and that you are seeking an assessment to the district's registrar ([RValle@fairfieldschools.org](mailto:RValle@fairfieldschools.org)) or James Zavodjancik ([JZavodjancik@fairfieldschools.org](mailto:JZavodjancik@fairfieldschools.org)).
- Select a preferred date (Fall or Spring) for your child to be assessed on the registration portal.
- Complete and submit the Parent Observation Form (electronic).

The district will be in contact with the parent to confirm the assessment date and next steps in the process.

# Assessment Dates and Locations

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<b>Fall (McKinley and Riverfield)</b>	<b>Spring (Holland Hill and Burr)</b>
November 5 - Morning Session	March 4 - Afternoon Session
December 3 - Afternoon session	April 1 - Afternoon Session
November/December - Evening session and location TBD	March/April - Evening session and location TBD



# Kindergarten Transition Resources

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[Hello Kindergarten](#) - Office of Early Childhood Information

[Sparkler](#) (application - code is: Fairfield)

[CT Early Learning and Development Standards](#)

[CT Documentation and Observation for Teaching System](#)

# Contact Information

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Additional questions may be directed to Fairfield Public Schools Central Offices:

**James Zavodjancik**  
**Chief Academic Officer**  
**(203) 255-8390**

**[JZavodjancik@fairfieldschools.org](mailto:JZavodjancik@fairfieldschools.org)**



# Questions, Comments, and Discussion

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### Kindergarten Early Admissions Parental Observation Checklist

<b>Student's Last Name</b>	
<b>Student's First Name</b>	
<b>Student's Date of Birth</b>	
<b>Parent's Email</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Name of Form Completer</b>	
<b>Relationship to Student</b>	
<b>Parent/Guardian Contact Phone Number</b>	
<b>Has your child attended a program/school? <i>This may include childcare, daycare, nursery school, preschool, etc.</i></b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>If yes, please share the name and location of the program/school.</b>	
<b>Has your child ever received <i>Birth to Three</i> services</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Please answer each question based on what you observe about your child by clicking either observed or not observed for each prompt. Observed indicates that your child consistently demonstrates the skill/behavior indicated.

#### Social Development

<b>Prompt</b>	<b>Observed</b>	<b>Not Observed</b>
Asks a trusted adult for help.		
Takes turns when playing games.		
Stays with an activity until completion (e.g., completing a picture of oneself, listening to a story, completing a puzzle)		
Asks for help when necessary.		
Follows through on given directions.		
Complies with rules, limits, and routines.		
Separates from parents.		
Self-selects activities of choice.		
Interacts with peers to play or work cooperatively.		
Uses words to communicate feelings and needs.		
Transitions easily from one activity to another.		

#### Language

<b>Prompt</b>	<b>Observed</b>	<b>Not Observed</b>
Follows two-step directions.		
Answers simple questions.		
Talks about everyday experiences.		
Asks questions about things in which s/he is interested.		
Expresses his/her ideas so that others can understand.		
Participates in conversations with adults.		
Participates in conversations with peers.		
Listens attentively to speakers.		

### Literacy

Prompt	Observed	Not Observed
Holds a book correctly and turns pages from the front of the book.		
Identifies some letter sounds.		
Recognizes printed letters, especially in his/her name.		
Can write his/her name.		

### Learning Foundations

Prompt	Observed	Not Observed
Correctly counts four to ten objects.		
Recognizes his/her first name in print.		
Looks at books and pictures on his/her own.		
Tries to write, scribble, and draw.		
Attempts to write his/her first name.		

### Numeracy

Prompt	Observed	Not Observed
Counts to ten.		
Demonstrates one-to-one correspondence while counting (i.e., touches objects as s/he counts).		
Identifies simple shapes, such as circles, squares, rectangles, and triangles.		
Identifies some numbers.		

### Physical Development

Prompt	Observed	Not Observed
Enjoys outdoor play such as running, jumping, and climbing.		
Puts together a puzzle.		
Holds a crayon or marker using a 3-finger grasp.		
Uses scissors to cut paper.		

### Health and Safety

Prompt	Observed	Not Observed
Follows simple safety rules.		
Can independently use the bathroom, including washing his/her hands.		
Uses materials appropriately and safely.		
Keeps hands and feet to oneself.		