



Fairfield Public Schools

Kindergarten Admissions
School Year 2026-27



Kindergarten Entry Age

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.

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

Exceptions - Waiver Requirements

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 2026-2027 >
2026-2027Kindergarten Domain Specific Readiness Skills

FPS Waiver Assessment

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

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

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

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

- Go to the FPS Website > Registration
- Send a letter of intent (or upload with your parent assessment on the Google form), indicating that your child is developmentally ready for kindergarten and that you are seeking an assessment to Dr. James Zavodjancik (JZavodjancik@fairfieldschools.org).
- Select a preferred date (Fall or Spring) for your child to be assessed on the registration portal Google Form (electronic).
- Complete and submit the Parent Observation Form (Google Form).

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

Assessment Dates and Locations

Fall (McKinley and Riverfield)	Spring (Holland Hill and Burr)
November 4 - Morning Session	February 12 - Afternoon Session May 12 - Afternoon Session

Kindergarten Transition Resources

[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

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

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Questions, Comments, and Discussion
