

**MONITOR OF THE MOUNT VERNON CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT PUBLIC HEARING**

July 29, 2025

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Moderator: Dr. Demario Strickland
- State Monitor:
 - Dr. Kimberly Young Wilkins
- Mount Vernon City School District Representative:
 - Dr. Jamal Doggett

AGENDA

- Presentation on the NYS legislation regarding school district academic performance and desired outcomes (Kimberly Young Wilkins)
- Opportunity For Public Comment
- Next Steps in Process

MEETING PROTOCOLS

- After the monitor has finished her presentation, we will open the meeting up for questions.
- Anyone who submitted a request to speak will be given 4 minutes to talk and will be called upon by name when it is his or her turn.
- Anyone who did not submit a request to speak prior to the hearing can still submit comments to

kyoungwilkins@mtvernoncsd.org

STATUTORY AUTHORITY OF THE MOUNT VERNON MONITOR

Chapter 56 of the Laws of 2025 requires the Commissioner to appoint a Monitor to the Mount Vernon City School District to provide oversight, guidance and technical assistance related to the academic and fiscal policies, practices, programs and decisions of the District, the Board of Education, and the Superintendent.

APPOINTMENT OF MONITOR

- On July 1, 2025, I was appointed by Commissioner Betty Rosa to be the monitor of the Mount Vernon City School District.

REQUIREMENT FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Chapter 56 of the laws of 2025 requires that the Monitor of the Mount Vernon City School District hold three public hearings within 60 days of their appointment.
- The first hearing, which focused on governance and intervention issues and the role of the State Education Commissioner, the NYS Education Department, and the Board of Regents, was held on July 22, 2025. The minutes of the first hearing are available on the school district website, as is the PowerPoint presentation.

REQUIREMENT FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

- The purpose of this second hearing is to explain the role of the Monitor in providing oversight and assistance in academic matters of the Mount Vernon schools and to take public comment on the academic performance of the school district.
- The third hearing will be held on August 5th and will take public comment on the fiscal performance of the school district.

OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL DISTRICT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE (2023-2024 School Year Results)

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Measure	Mount Vernon	New York State
3–8 ELA % Proficient	42%	46%
3-8 Math % Proficient	40%	54%
Chronic Absenteeism % Elementary/Middle	26%	25%
Chronic Absenteeism % High School	22%	32%
4-Year Graduation Rate (August 2024)	76%	86%
4-Year Graduation Rate: Regents with Advanced Designation	13%	33%

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MONITOR

- Serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the board
- Assist the board to adopt a conflict-of-interest policy that ensures board members and administrators act in the district's best interest
- Develop a proposed financial plan and a proposed academic improvement plan for the district no later than November 1, 2025, for the 2025-2026 school year and the four subsequent school years.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE MONITOR

- Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year budget, ensure that the budget is balanced and consistent with the district's long-term financial plan.
- Assist in resolving any disputes and conflicts between the superintendent and the board and among members of the board.
- Authority to disapprove travel outside the State paid for by the district;
- Recommend cost saving measures including, but not limited to, shared service agreements; and;
- Notify the board in writing regarding violations of the academic and/or financial plan.
- Provide semiannual reports on the academic, fiscal, and operational status of the district.

ACADEMIC PLAN

- The Monitor and board must develop a five-year academic plan no later than November 1, 2025.
- The academic plan is likely to create findings and recommendations regarding many of the topics below:
 - District Governance and Leadership
 - Teaching and Learning
 - Special Education
 - English Language Learners
 - Organizational Structure
 - Human Capital
 - Family and Community Engagement
 - School Climate and Social/Emotional Learning
 - School and District Operations

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

- Next we will allow persons who have signed up to speak a maximum of four minutes to make their comments and/or ask their questions.

NEXT STEPS

- A record of this public hearing will be made available on the district's website at <https://www.mtvernoncsd.org/>.
- Answers to any questions that were not addressed in this hearing that are relevant to the topic will also be available in the public record.
- We thank you for your participation in this evening's hearing and look forward to working together with the administration, school board, and the community to stabilize and improve upon the fiscal performance of the Mount Vernon public schools.