

2026-2027

**East Haddam
Elementary School**



**Family & Student
Resource
Handbook**

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SAVE THE DATES			
Meet and Greet Tuesday August 25th 1:30 - 3:00 pm	1st Day for Students Thursday August 27, 2026	School Pictures Wednesday Sept. 22, 2026	Open House Tuesday, September 29th PreK, Kindergarten, & 1st Grades 5:00-5:35 pm 2nd and 3rd Grades 5:50-6:25pm
Fall Conferences Oct. 14 -16	Spring Conferences March 10-12	Progressing Reporting: November 20, March 5, June 10 or Last Day of School	
Scheduled Early Dismissal Days for All Students T 9/15, T 10/13, T 11/11, T 12/8, T 2/9, T 3/9, T 4/6, June 10th (or last day of school)			
Reminder, Parent-Teacher conference days are scheduled early dismissal days for ALL students Tues 10/14-Fri 10/16 and Tues 3/10-Fri 3/12			

Principal Welcome Message

Dear East Haddam Elementary School Students and Families,

Welcome to the 2026–2027 school year at East Haddam Elementary School! Our dedicated staff is excited to welcome our PreK through 3rd grade students and families to another inspiring year of learning, connection, and growth. At EHES, our core mission remains grounded in strong relationships, open communication, and a vibrant partnership between school and home.

This school year, our entire school community is rallying around an inspiring question: **"What if...?"**

We invite our students, staff, and families to dream big, set goals that challenge our expectations, and push the boundaries of our limitless potential. What if we try something new? What if we see mistakes as stepping stones to understanding? What if we reach just a little higher? When we approach each day with wonder and ambition, there is no limit to what our students can accomplish.

Creating a positive, inclusive, and joyful school climate where every child feels safe and valued is at the heart of everything we do. This year, we are expanding our social-emotional learning (SEL) framework by integrating the Jesse Lewis Choose Love Movement curriculum. Centered around four key pillars—Courage, Gratitude, Forgiveness, and Compassion in Action—Choose Love equips students with essential life skills to manage emotions, make positive choices, and build strong, caring relationships.

EHES continues its steadfast commitment to Restorative Practices as part of our daily school environment. Through morning meetings and restorative circles, students actively practice empathy, reflect on how their actions affect others, and learn how to repair harm in respectful, meaningful ways. These routines empower our young learners to take accountability, resolve conflicts constructively, and thrive both socially and emotionally.

We remain deeply committed to providing engaging, high-quality instruction that sparks curiosity and fosters a passion for lifelong learning. By prioritizing student voice, goal setting, reflection, and rich academic discourse, we empower students to take ownership of their education. Our classrooms are active, supportive spaces designed to develop confident, independent thinkers.

Please take time to read through this Family & Student Resource Handbook for essential details on daily schedules, routines, attendance, and safety policies. You will also receive digital updates and communications throughout the year via ParentSquare, PowerSchool, and our school website at www.easthaddamschools.org.

Thank you for your continued trust, support, and partnership. Together, let's ask **"What if...?"** and discover just how far our students can go!

Warmly,

Megan Peterson

Principal, East Haddam Elementary School

East Haddam Public Schools' Vision and Mission Statement

East Haddam is a district of distinction where educators value student success, family outreach, and the power of accountable collective efficacy. We develop student passions, knowledge, and civic mindedness, We ensure a nurturing, dynamic learning community where communication thrives, students excel, rigorous instruction is the norm, and the children's developmental needs are heeded. We believe in the power of not yet and reject ceilings so that students can soar. We love equitably and cultivate an environment where every student feels valued, supported, and empowered to persist through adversity.

The mission of the East Haddam School District is to develop a community of lifelong learners who are prepared to become independent, creative, and productive citizens for our diverse and ever-changing global society.

EQUITY STATEMENT

(adopted on June 25, 2025)

The East Haddam School District is enthusiastically creating an accessible environment where every member of our community is valued, respected and appreciated. Through policies and regulations, the Board strives to achieve standards that recognize the complexities of differences and is committed to being inclusive, equitable and respectful of all individuals within our community. Our charge to 'eliminate the barriers that have prevented the full participation of our community' is a journey that we are steadfast in, alongside and including all of the parents/guardians and community agencies, generating an equitable education for ALL students.



East Haddam Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of: race, color, religious creed, sex age, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability (including but not limited to) intellectual disability, past or present history of mental disorder, physical disability or learning disability, genetic information, or any other basis prohibited by state and/or federal nondiscrimination laws: and equal access to school facilities and school premises to Scouts and other designated youth programs. (REF: [Board Policy: 4000.1](#))

The following person has been designated as the district compliance officer who will coordinate compliance with the non-discrimination requirement of Title IX and 504.

Director of Pupil Services
Title IX Compliance Officer/ Title IX Coordinator and Section 504 Coordinator
East Haddam Board of Education
26 Plains Road
Moodus, CT 06469
860 873-5046

Please note that by being enrolled in our school system and provided with this document, it is understood and implied that your child will abide by all rules, regulations, and expectations outlined within this handbook. This handbook aligns with Board of Education policies and all applicable laws (as outlined in the attached BOE policy).

District Staff Information

Board of Education Members

Chairperson - Keira Thompson
Secretary - Jessica Hatfield
Melissa Ziobron
Jim Francese
Terry Garrity
Thea Jansky
Sean Morrissey
Stephen Trojan
Daniel Flack

District Administration

Dr. Teresa DeBrito	Superintendent of Schools
Donald Angersola	Director of Operations
TBD	Business Manager
Christopher Eckert	Principal, Nathan Hale Ray High School
Allison Stroili	Assistant Principal, Nathan Hale Ray High School
Wendy McCabe	Director of Pupil Services
Rayna Northcutt	Principal, Nathan Hale Ray Middle School
Bridget Erlandson	Assistant Principal, Nathan Hale Ray Middle School
Megan Peterson	Principal, East Haddam Elementary School

Student Support Services

Christina Revicki	School Psychologist
Deana Tyler	School Social Worker
Martha Dexter	School Nurse
Katherine Lindblom	School Nurse
Natalie Mather	Food Service Director
Matthew Hall	Network Administrator

Telephone Numbers

Superintendent of Schools	860-873-5090
East Haddam Elementary School	860-873-5076
East Haddam Elementary School Nurse's Office	860-873-5078
East Haddam Elementary School Fax	860-873-5155

School Staff Information

Office Staff

Denise Russo
Patricia Distefano
Nicole Weaver

Essential Arts

Lisa Chlebowski-Library
Lauren Cryan-Art Studio
Ryan Kelly-PE/Health
Daphne Miller-STEM
Charles Salley-Music

Custodial Staff

Connie Kukta
Erin Haight
John Witherly
Sydney Mather
Aiden Lucas

Pre-Kindergarten

Megan Roberts
Lindsey Rynaski
Meagan Wlodkowski

Mental Health Staff

Christina Revicki-PSYC
Deana Tyler-SW
Nicole Williams-CHC

Paraeducators

TBD, PreK
Cheri Brisson, SpEd
Kerrie Bryant, K
Heather Corley, SpEd
Priscilla Derosier, SpEd
Jennifer Dorr, Library
Nina Dumont, PreK SpEd
Jennifer Egan, PreK
Jennifer Erkkila-RDG
Aurora Fitch-Lattanzio, SpEd
Lisa Girouard, K
Felicia Harris, SpEd
Yvonne Janecek, Math
Mariah Mager, SpEd
TBD, SpEd
Elizabeth Pester, SpEd
Jackie Pettinelli, SpEd
Christina Ricard, PreK SpEd
Minnie Traceski, K
Abby Vanover, K

Kindergarten

Julie Frazier
Patricia Hagerty
Sandra Schenzfeier
Haley Turecek

Student Support Service

Kathy Bristol-PT
Kristen Colella-SLP
Catherine DeLaurentis-SpEd
Marie Forsythe-OT
Rene Jackson-SpEd
Cathy Marino-Math
Erika Ocken-SLP
Kayla Parsons-Reading
Kristin Syversen-SpEd

First Grade

Krtisten Bishop
Kayla McLaughlin
Sallianne Norelli
Rosemary Sweeney

Family Resource Center

Linda LaBrec
Joy Lenares

Second Grade

Jessica Lowery
Jennifer Nims
Allison Piskura
Kellie Torres

Third Grade

Brittany Forino
Katie Hill
Lindsay Pattavina
Jennifer Soderberg

Cafeteria Staff

Maureen LaBella
Jane Cooper

School Security

SRO Dave Southworth
SSO James Kennedy

26-27 School Calendar

EAST HADDAM SCHOOL DISTRICT

2026-2027 School Calendar

Approved 2/11/2026

H = Holiday - Schools Closed
 ○ = Early Dismissal
 ■ = No School
 ◻ = No School/Make-up days

July 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31

4 Independence Day

August 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
31				

24, 25, & 26 Professional Development
27 School Begins for Students

September 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
H	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

7 Labor Day/No School
15 Professional Dev./Early Dismissal

October 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
H	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

12 Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day/No School
13 Professional Dev./Early Dismissal
14,15,16 Parent/Teacher Conferences/Early Dismissal/PD

November 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	H	H
30				

11 Veterans Day/Early Dismissal/PD
25 Vacation Day
26 - 28 Thanksgiving Recess

December 2026				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	H
28	29	30	31	

8 Professional Dev./Early Dismissal
23 - Jan. 1/ Winter Holiday Break

January 2027				
M	T	W	T	F
				H
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
H	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	

1 New Year's Day/No School
18 Martin Luther King Day/No School
19 Professional Dev./No School

February 2027				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
H	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

9 Professional Dev./Early Dismissal
15 Presidents' Day/No School
16 & 17 Vacation Days

March 2027				
M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	H
29	30	31		

9 Professional Dev./Early Dismissal
10,11,12 Parent/Teacher Conferences/Early Dismissal/PD
26 Good Friday/No School

April 2027				
M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

6 Professional Dev./Early Dismissal
12-16 Spring Break

May 2027				
M	T	W	T	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	28
H				

11 Professional Dev./Early Dismissal
31 Memorial Day/No School

June 2027				
M	T	W	T	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

10 Last Day/Early Dismissal
10 High School Graduation/Early Dismissal
Make-up days #1-4

NOTE: School closure days shall be scheduled on Make-Up Days starting with June 11

Additional closure days will then be taken from April vacation beginning with Monday, April 12

February 16 & 17, 2027 may also be used as school closure make-up days.

Board of Education reserves the right to make changes as needed due to unforeseen circumstances affecting school closures.

After school meetings will occur on Tuesdays unless adjusted by Principals

2026-2027 SCHOOL CALENDAR BREAKDOWN

July 2026

4 Independence Day

August

24, 25, 26 Professional Development

27 First Day for Students

September

7 Labor Day (Schools Closed)

15 Early Dismissal/PD

October

12 Columbus Day/Indigenous People's Day (Schools Closed)

13 Early Dismissal/PD

14,15,16 Parent/Teacher Conferences(Early Dismissal)

November

11 Veteran's Day, early dismissal

25 Vacation Day

26 & 27 Thanksgiving Recess (Schools Closed)

December

8 Early Dismissal/ PD

23-Jan. 1 Winter Holiday Break

January 2027

1 New Year's Day observed (Schools Closed)

18 Martin Luther King Day (Schools Closed)

19 PD/No School

February

9 Early Dismissal/PD

15 Presidents' Day (Schools Closed)

16 & 17 Vacation Days (No School)

March

9 Early Dismissal/PD

10,11,12 Parent/Teacher Conferences(Early Dismissal)

26 Good Friday (No School)

April

6 Early Dismissal/PD

12-16 Spring Break (No School)

May

11 Professional Development (Early Dismissal)

31 Memorial Day (Schools Closed)

June

10 Last Day/Early Dismissal (pending snow days)

10 High School Graduation

2026-2027 SCHOOL TIMES

SCHOOL		Regular Hours	Early Dismissals	2 hr.Delay	3 hr. Delay
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL		8:50a - 3:20p	8:50a-1:20p	10:50a - 3:20p	11:50a - 3:20p
MIDDLE SCHOOL	4-5th	8:40a - 3:10p	8:40a - 1:10p	10:40a - 3:10p	11:40a - 3:10p
	6-8th	7:40a - 2:10p	7:40a - 12:10p	9:40a - 2:10p	10:40a - 2:10p
HIGH SCHOOL		7:30a - 2:00p	7:30a - 12:00p	9:30a - 2:00p	10:30a - 2:00p

2026-2027 EMERGENCY CLOSURES

School days lost to weather or other emergencies conditions will be made up in the following order:

* End of school year up to and including June 16th

* April 12-16 (5 days)

* February 16 & 17 (may be used at discretion of BOE)

The Board of Education reserves the right to make changes as needed due to unforeseen circumstances

EAST HADDAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PTO Welcome Letter

2026-2027

Jenn Boyle, PTO President
Heather Sinnott, PTO Vice President
Katie Brown, PTO Treasurer
Alicia Brickett, PTO Secretary

Reach us at:

easthaddamelementarypto@gmail.com

Facebook:



Welcome!

Welcome to all our PTO members and their families. We consider all parents and guardians PTO members in our school community.

We have an awesome calendar of events that helps support and enrich our children and the school. Check out some of the upcoming events.

We hope you are excited for the school year. If the PTO can assist in any way, please reach out!

~Your PTO Board
Jenn, Heather, Katie, &
Alicia

Get involved



PTO Bus Brigade:

- Help students from the school bus to their classroom for the first week.



Room parent (8-10 hours per year)

- Work with the teacher to support classroom snack needs, help with classroom activities, assist with basket bash collections, coordinate group activity on behalf of PTO twice per year, etc.



Volunteer

- We offer various volunteer opportunities with lots or little time requirements and can be during the days or evenings. Opportunities include book fair, holiday fair, February dance, basket bash and more.

Upcoming Events



Tues. Aug. 25 – School lobby

- Meet & Greet at the School.

Aug. 27-Sep. 1 – School lobby

- Bus Brigade (volunteers needed).

Tues. Sep. 22 – School lobby

- School picture day

Mon. Sep. 28 – Fall Fundraiser

- Fall Fundraiser sales begin

Tues. Sep. 29 – School entry and Gym

- Open House/Back to School Welcome.
- Book Fair family night

Watch Parent Square of
Facebook for more info!

Join the PTO today!



We can always use your support!

Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'

- Martin Luther King Jr.

[Click here for the PDF with LIVE LINKS](#)

MEET THE BOARD

President

Hi all, I am a mom, an engineer, a co-leader of a Cadette Girl Scout Troop, and a board member of the Roger Williams School of Engineering Professional Advisory board. I have an incoming 8th grader and second grader this year. I joined the PTO with hopes to be a positive influence in my kids (and your kids) lives. I want to help provide and support fun things for our students and help our teachers/staff have a successful year. I am looking forward to meeting and building relationships with you all.

~Jenn Boyle

Vice President

Hi Everyone! I have lived in East Haddam over 10 years with my husband, Jeff, who grew up here and went to EHES himself. We have 2 awesome boys in the school system: Owen in 4th grade and Noah in 1st grade. This will be my third year as VP of the PTO and I am excited to continue on the Board. I have volunteered with several PTO events and have become more and more involved each year. I love being involved with the school activities and supporting the community. I look forward to meeting everyone and working with all the parents to have a great school year!

~Heather

Treasurer

Hello! I am very excited to be a part of your 2026-2027 PTO board as treasurer. My husband, Mike, and I have three kids: Karson (4th grade), McKenna (2nd grade), and Brooks is 4 years old. We love being involved in the community and volunteering for PTO events and town sports. I currently work full time as the Xray/Mammo Supervisor at Backus Hospital. We love volunteering and can't wait to continue to learn and grow within the community and at EHES. I am looking forward to a great year!

~Katie Brown

Secretary

Hello everyone! I'm excited to be serving in my second year as secretary for the PTO! My family and I have been a part of the East Haddam community for just over three years. My amazing husband, Adam, has three wonderful children: Preston, fourth grade; Jaxon, second grade; and Aubrey who is starting preschool. Over the past two years we have grown more involved with the PTO and I've truly come to love being a part of it all. I'm looking forward to ensuring a clear and organized communication among parents, teachers, and staff. I'm committed to contributing to a positive and productive environment that supports our students and the entire school community. I can't wait to meet everyone and continue helping however I can.

~Alicia

THANK YOU!

Huge thanks to our many volunteers.
We appreciate all that you do for our school and our kids.
We couldn't do it without you.

Want to volunteer? Please reach out:

easthaddamelementarypto@gmail.com

What the PTO offers:

- Cultural arts programs
- Support for classroom items
- Family activities (Bingo Night, Wolf Pack games, February Dance, Color Run, etc.)
- Author visits and meal with students
- Holiday shopping for kids
- Get Out and Play day activities
- Snacks and meals for teachers
- Staff Appreciation
- Two book fairs
- And so much more

Join our monthly PTO Meetings, the 3rd Tuesday of the Month at 7:15 p.m.

Link will be sent via Parent Square, so be on the lookout. We hope to see you all there!

General Information

School Hours

8:50am Classes begin
Students are marked tardy at 8:55

8:50a - 3:20p Student School Day
 Full Day Preschool,
 Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Grade

Integrated Preschool Program

8:50 - 11:50 am	AM Preschool	Monday - Thursday
12:20 - 3:20 pm	PM Pre-Kindergarten	Monday - Friday

For safety and comfort, students brought to school should arrive around 8:45 AM. Students will not gain access to the school building until 8:40am.

Delayed opening, school closing

Scheduled Early Dismissal

8:50am start - 1:20 pm dismissal

Integrated AM Preschool	8:50 - 10:50 am
Integrated PM Preschool	11:20 - 1:20 pm

Delayed Opening

10:40am start - 3:20 pm dismissal

<i>Integrated AM Preschool is canceled</i>	
Integrated PM Preschool	12:20 - 3:20 pm

Unscheduled Early Dismissal

8:50 am start - 12:20 pm dismissal
 (if lunch wave has not happened, bag lunches will be sent with students who ordered)

Integrated AM Preschool	8:50 am - 10:20 am (or as soon as families can pick up their preschool students)
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*Integrated PM Preschool is **canceled**.*

Unscheduled Early Dismissal Procedures

In the event of an unscheduled early closing, parents should be sure their child knows what to do. *It is essential that families have a plan in place for those days when the school may need to close early.* The Superintendent will activate the district's rapid communication system to inform parents of the unscheduled early dismissal. As in the case of late openings and school closings, announcements will be made on the radio and television.

Rapid Communication Service

The East Haddam School District utilizes an alert system when rapid communication must reach the members of our school community. This system is activated by the Superintendent of Schools to quickly disseminate information about delays, early closings, cancellations, or emergencies. Parents provide contact information used by this system when registering their children. It is imperative that any changes to parent contact information are communicated immediately to our office. More information is available at www.easthaddamschools.org

In addition to the automated message, parents are reminded that in the event of school closings, late openings, or early dismissal, they may listen to WTIC (1080 AM), WMRD (1150), WDRC (1360 AM & 103 FM), WRCH (100.5), KISS (95.7 FM), WTNH 8, WFSB 3, and WVIT 30.

Attendance

It is the parent/guardian's responsibility to call the school to report an absence and the reason for your child missing school. Please call the office 860-873-5076 or leave a voicemail before/after school hours at 860-873-5078; provide the student's name, grade, and reason for absence.

Will your child be absent, tardy, dismissed early, or picked up at the regular dismissal time rather than take their bus home? Click on this form to share this information with EHES.

2026-2027 School Year Note from Home to School

or

Scan this QR code to get to the digital Note from Home to School



Please note, written documentation to excuse a student's absence ***must be submitted to the office within 5 school days of the absence*** and must include:

1. the date and reason for absence
2. signature from the provider (doctor, dentist, etc.)

Families will be notified in writing in the cases of excessive absenteeism, tardiness, or frequent early dismissals.

EHES will be following district and state attendance policies.

- In addition to written documentation of absences (excused and unexcused), attendance meetings between a member of the EHES Attendance Committee and parents/guardians will be held when certain absence instances have been reached. The goal of these meetings will be to provide support to your child and yourselves to ensure regular school attendance occurs.
- Should the pattern of absences continue, we will engage with community resources (i.e. East Haddam Youth and Family Services, etc.) to layer additional support.

Attachment A: State Board of Education Definitions
Connecticut State Board of Education
Definitions of Excused and Unexcused Absences
Adopted June 27, 2012

[EHPS Board Policy 5113 revised 3/13/24](#)

The following definitions are for use by Connecticut school districts and schools for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of section 10-198a of the Connecticut General Statutes (Policies and procedures concerning truants), and for the purpose of reporting truancy, pursuant to

subsection (c) of Section 10-220 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The use of these definitions for state purposes does not preclude districts from using separate definitions of excused and unexcused absences for their internal uses (including decisions on promotion/retention, grading and disciplinary action).

Excused Absences

A student's absence* from school shall be considered excused if written documentation† of the reason for the absence has been submitted within ten school days of the student's return to school or in accordance with Section 10-210 of the Connecticut General Statutes and meets the following criteria:

* The Connecticut State Board of Education policy states that "A student is considered to be 'in attendance' if present at his/her assigned school, or an activity sponsored by the school (e.g., field trip), for at least half of the regular school day. A student who is serving an out-of-school suspension or expulsion should always be considered absent." A student not meeting the definition of 'in attendance' is considered absent.

† Such documentation should include a signed note from the student's parent/guardian, a signed note from a school official that spoke in person with the parent/guardian regarding the absence, or a note confirming the absence by the school nurse or by a licensed medical professional, as appropriate. Documentation should explain the nature of and the reason for the absence as well as the length of the absence. Separate documentation must be submitted for each incidence of absenteeism. For example, if a student is out sick two consecutive days, that student must submit the appropriate documentation covering both sick days. If a student is out sick two nonconsecutive days, that student must submit the appropriate documentation following each absence. Schools should take steps to allow non-English-speaking parents/guardians to submit documentation in their native language.

A. For absences one through nine, a student's absences from school are considered excused when the student's parent/guardian approves such absence and submits appropriate documentation; and

B. For the tenth absence and all absences thereafter, a student's absences from school are considered excused for the following reasons:

1. student illness (Note: **all student illness absences must be verified by an appropriately licensed medical professional to be deemed excused, regardless of the length of absence**);
2. student's observance of a religious holiday;
3. death in the student's family or other emergency beyond the control of the student's family;
4. mandated court appearances (**additional documentation required**);
5. the lack of transportation that is normally provided by a district other than the one the student attends (no parental documentation is required for this reason); or
6. extraordinary educational opportunities pre-approved by district administrators and in accordance with the Connecticut State Department of Education guidance.

Unexcused Absences

A student's absence from school shall be considered unexcused unless they meet one of the following criteria:

- A. The absence meets the definition for an excused absence (including documentation requirements); or
- B. The absence meets the definition of a disciplinary absence.

Disciplinary Absences

Absences that are the result of school or district disciplinary action are excluded from these definitions.

Connecticut State Department of Education, April 2013

Truancy Introduction and Definitions

[*EHPS Board Policy 5113.2 revised 3/13/24*](#)

The district's policy on student truancy shall stress early prevention and inquiry leading to remediation of absences rather than imposition of punitive measures for students. Referral to legal authorities normally shall be made only when local resources are exhausted.

"Truant" shall mean a student aged five to eighteen, inclusive, who has four unexcused absences in any one month, or ten unexcused absences in one school year.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Missing a day of school here and there may not seem like much, but absences add up!

When a student misses 2 days a month..	When a student misses 4 days a month..
They will miss 20 DAYS a year.	They will miss 40 DAYS a year.
They will miss 30 HOURS of math over the school year.	They will miss 60 HOURS of math over the school year.
They will miss 60 HOURS of reading & writing over the school year.	They will miss 120 HOURS of reading & writing over the school year.
They will miss over 1 YEAR of school by graduation.	They will miss over 2 YEARS of school by graduation.

Transportation to and From School

Student Drop-Off Procedures

EHES AM Drop Off Map



Students may be dropped off in the designated area to enter the building at the main entrance no earlier than 8:40am. **Caregivers must remain in the vehicle with student(s) until Arrival Supervisors are visible on the front sidewalk.** To ensure safety, please do not discharge students from the driver's side of the vehicle or at either playground area. **Drivers should not get out of their seats to assist students while in the drop off lane.** The bus lane is restricted to buses only at all times during the school day.

Please follow these guidelines when dropping off your student from your vehicle:

- Please allow students or EHES Arrival Monitors to open the passenger side door as you quickly drop off the child(ren).
- Allow students or EHES Arrival Monitors to close the door to the vehicle. **Drivers, please do not exit your vehicle in the student drop off lane.**
 - If any driver must leave their vehicle to help students exit, please park your vehicle in a parking space and deliver the student safely to the front sidewalk.
- Exit the drop off lane as soon as your child(ren) has exited to the sidewalk to keep the flow of traffic moving.
- Do not pass other cars at drop off unless explicitly directed by an EHES staff person. Children's safety is of the utmost importance during this busy time of day.
- Please do not block corners in order to allow buses to pull in/out to the left of the car lane on the straightaway parallel to the school building.

- If you arrive after the Arrival Monitors are off duty, please park your vehicle and escort your student to the main office to sign them in. Students arriving after 8:55am will be marked tardy.

EHES Arrival Monitors

Monitors will be present during morning arrival starting at 8:40am, and ending at 8:55am. They will be checking that safety procedures are being followed and that students are making the journey from their car to the school entrance safely. Please follow the above mentioned procedures and expectations in order to ensure a safe and efficient start to everyone's day.

Student Dismissal Procedures

Please refrain from picking up your student prior to the designated 3:20 time whenever possible to allow the student to complete the school day with the class. In an effort to maintain the safety and efficiency of our school dismissal, please follow procedures for parent pick up. Please read these guidelines carefully and, whenever possible, allow your child to ride the school bus.

If you plan to pick your child up from school, please **send in a note**. The office staff will record this information on a log sheet. **If you have an emergency pick up without sending in a note, please notify the office before 2:30pm (860-873-5076).**

Note: If there is a recurring pick up day, a one-time note is needed. If this plan changes, the office must be notified in writing of this change.

Early Dismissal of Students

We encourage, whenever possible, appointments for doctor, dentist, etc. will be made outside of school hours. Fill out the digital Note From Home to School form or a handwritten note to the teacher/office whenever a student is to be dismissed early from school. Parents or guardians will be asked to sign the sign-out sheet upon picking up a child for early dismissal. An early dismissal is any time before 3:20. Please refrain from picking up your student prior to the end of the school day whenever possible to allow the student to complete the school day with the class.

STUDENTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO STAY AFTER SCHOOL FOR ACTIVITIES OR GO ANYWHERE OTHER THAN HOME WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM THEIR PARENT OR GUARDIAN.

EHES Pick-Up Map



- Students may only be picked up in the designated area. Dismissal will begin promptly at 3:20pm (1:20pm on scheduled early dismissal days).

There will be designated parking spots specifically for parents picking up their child(ren) at dismissal. See map above indicating where these are. Please be considerate and park in these spaces. As the staff will have their designated spots for parking. The pick-up spots are generally open during the day if you need to visit the school.

- You will be given an assigned outer building door at which to pick up your child(ren). These doors are noted on the map in yellow or pink dots.
- You will bring your pick-up tag to the door with you and be entered by a staff person into the system in the order you arrive. This is the order we will be sending students out to you. Remember, your key tag matches your student's bag tag, this is part of our safety protocol. If you forget your tag, you will be asked to show your license. Please be patient as we may have to check the person picking up using a license with our database on who has parent/guardian permission to pick up a child.
- The map indicates which way to enter the lots to park and which way to exit. We are attempting to keep the flow one way in and one way out to avoid any frustrations or mishaps. If there is not a spot available when you arrive, please wait in the queue for the next available spot.
- **Please do not cut around someone in line waiting for a spot. THIS IS DANGEROUS!**

- Please be careful when parking and pulling out of the spots and the lot. Be alert to other cars and people transitioning to and from their cars.
- Please keep children with you at all times once they are delivered to you by school staff. Cross at crosswalks whenever possible.
- Please yield to buses.

The bus lane is restricted to buses only at all times during the school day.

EHES Dismissal Monitors

Monitors will be present during afternoon dismissal. They will be dismissing students to their pick-up adult, and checking that safety procedures are being followed. Please follow the above mentioned procedures and expectations in order to ensure a safe and efficient transition from school each day.

Code of Behavior For Bus Riders

EHPS Board Policies [3541.31](#), [3541.35](#) & [3541.5](#)

In order to ensure safe, pleasant bus transportation, the following code of safe riding practice has been established. Children are directly responsible to the school bus driver.

1. Courtesy will be shown at all times to schoolmates and bus drivers.
2. Students abusing or destroying property will be responsible for payment. Any damage should be reported to the driver.
3. All students will observe rules of safety when waiting for, boarding, and leaving the bus.
 - a. While waiting, stand away from traffic. Wait in the designated bus stop. Do not wander on private property. Be at your stop at least 5 minutes prior to pickup/drop off.
 - b. While boarding, follow the directions of the driver. Board in single file.
 - c. While leaving, follow the directions of the driver. Leave in a single file. Students will cross the highway in front of the bus.
4. While on the bus, students will remain seated.
5. During emergencies or emergency practice drills, students will follow the directions of the bus driver.
6. Hands, heads, etc. should remain inside the bus during the bus ride.
7. Bus drivers may assign seats.
8. Fighting or disruptive behavior is not permitted. Appropriate language is expected at all times.
9. There will be no eating or drinking on buses. No refuse or trash should be left on the bus.
10. Smoking and lighting matches are prohibited by law.
11. Students bringing large projects to school will need to arrange for parent assistance in transporting these items to school. Pets, wildlife and other distracting articles shall not be transported.
12. Reasonably sized school bags should be used to carry personal possessions. Band instruments should be secured in their cases at all times.

Need to Change your Child's Bus Transportation? Please let the office know and fill out the EHES Transportation Form [here](#) or scan the QR Code.



School Communication

EHPS Parent Square

Parent Square is a one-stop communication hub for all district, school, grade, class and individual messaging. We recognize that families can be inundated with messaging for one child from one school as well as across multiple schools and children. Parent Square will give you one place to go to:

- email any member of the school staff
- access notices, newsletters, school calendar and events
- get emergency alerts/notifications

School Newsletters

The purpose of the newsletter is to keep families informed of school events, classroom activities, and procedural information. Newsletters will be sent through Parent Square on a regular basis. You can expect communications from the district, school administration, the main office, and your child's teacher(s).

Notices Home

There will be notices sent home periodically with your child. Please remind your child to give you all notices from school. Notices will also be sent through Parent Square.

Home-School-Home

Parents are encouraged to contact their child's classroom teacher at any time during the academic year with any concerns. An early, positive relationship between the teacher and the parent is the most productive way to work toward our common goal, student growth and well being. This requires mutual cooperation and a sharing of responsibilities. As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. When your child enters school, you and the school become partners in your child(ren)'s success. Years of research show that the more families are actively involved in the education of their children, the more successful the child will be in school and in life.

PowerSchool/East Haddam School Website

The East Haddam School district uses the PowerSchool online system as a Teacher/Parent resource for student progress reporting, attendance and scheduling. All parents/guardians will be assigned a parent portal login so that they are able to look at their students' information.

For the most up to date information on District and School-wide events and notices, please visit the district website at www.easthaddamschools.org

Parent Involvement

Visitors and Volunteers

EHPS Board Policy [1110.1](#) & [1250](#)

East Haddam Public schools encourage parent/guardian involvement and participation in their child's educational experience. To this end, parents and/or guardians are encouraged to volunteer within their child's school.

All visitors/volunteers must report to the office window upon entering the school building.

Visitors will be issued a visitor identification badge before gaining entrance to the building. Our school uses Raptor Inc. and V-soft. V-soft helps track all visitors, contractors and volunteers at our school, to provide a safely monitored environment.

During school hours when visitors, volunteers or contractors check-in, they will be asked to present a valid state or government issued ID. This ID will be scanned and in-turn enters the visitor's information into the system. The system will then print a photo badge that must be worn throughout the school during the course of the visit. The system will check all visitors against the national sex offender database and provide us with alerts. Additionally, all visitors are reminded that they must return to the office, at the conclusion of their visit and return their badge.

While volunteering at EHES, please refrain from cell phone use in the classroom or while with students; respect confidentiality and everyone's right to privacy; and communicate in advance, when possible, when you are not able to fulfill a volunteer commitment.

Parents are encouraged to volunteer in their child's classroom, attend assemblies and participate in special events. If parents wish to have a meeting with a teacher, they must schedule an appointment in advance. Meetings cannot be held during the time a teacher is scheduled to instruct the class.

If parents find it necessary to deliver articles of clothing, lunches, instruments, etc. to school, the items must be labeled (student's name and class) and left **at** the office.

Parent/Guardian Visitation and Observation Procedure

At times, a parent/guardian may wish to better understand what experiences their child is participating in at school, and a parent/guardian may wish to observe such experiences. The following procedures are established to support a parents request while ensuring minimal impact on the educational process.

- No later than 2 school days prior to the proposed date of observation, a parent or guardian must submit a written request to the building principal. This request must contain the following information:
 - The name of the student
 - A timeframe, not to exceed two hours. (i.e. 12:00 pm until 2:00pm)
- Such requests must be approved by the building principal prior to the parent entering to observe their student.

- Parents and/or guardians will be permitted to observe their student's experience no more than one time per month, per student.
- The purpose of observation is for the parent to better understand the experiences their student has at school. It is not for the purposes of evaluating a teacher's practice and is not transferable to someone other than the parent or guardian.

The building principal will consider all requests that meet the above guidelines and expectations. The parent will be informed no later than one school day prior to the date of observation of the decision to allow, disallow, or seek an alternate date and time. Generally, parent requests will be granted as long as the request meets the following criteria.

- There is minimal impact to the educational process.
- Visits will not be granted during exam periods.
- Confidentiality obligations as outlined in 34CFR Part 99 (FERPA) and 34CFR Part 300 (IDEA) are maintained.

Unauthorized persons shall not be permitted in school buildings or on school grounds. School Principals are authorized to take appropriate action to prevent such persons from entering the building or from loitering on the grounds. Such persons will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Social Emotional Learning

CT SEL Framework

The Connecticut Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Framework is a statewide guide that promotes the integration of social and emotional learning into all aspects of school life to support student well-being, academic achievement, and a positive school climate. Rooted in the nationally recognized CASEL model, the framework outlines five core competencies: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. For elementary-aged students, the framework provides developmentally appropriate indicators to guide instruction and support in building foundational SEL skills. At this stage, students are learning to recognize and name their emotions, follow routines, manage impulses, understand others' perspectives, and work cooperatively in group settings. The framework emphasizes the importance of embedding SEL into daily classroom routines and instruction and encourages strong partnerships with families and communities. Additionally, the Connecticut SEL Framework is grounded in culturally responsive practices, ensuring that instruction is inclusive, equitable, and respectful of all students' identities and experiences. Teachers will utilize resources to teach core lessons and students will have opportunities to practice the skills across school settings.

Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS)

EHES developed a school-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework, S.O.A.R. PBIS is an evidence-based, tiered framework that establishes a social culture and builds behavioral supports needed to improve social, emotional, behavioral, and academic outcomes for all students. These expectations are taught, reinforced, and supported throughout the school environment. When students are demonstrating these expectations they are acknowledged by school staff and when students are not meeting expectations reteaching, intervention, and support are put in place.

Safety	I am expected to make safe choices in all school settings.	Keep hands & feet to self Walk Eyes looking Ears listening Report unsafe behavior
Ownership	I am expected to be a responsible member of my school community.	Be a leader Act responsibly Take care of our school
Attitude	I am expected to have a positive can-do attitude.	Positivity - I can do it. Flexible Thinking Cooperative Be a role model
Respect	I am expected to be polite and kind.	Use kind words Use manners Whole body listening



Restorative Practices

“In all matters of student accountability, as educators, we take seriously our obligation to teach students better behavioral strategies. Therefore, in all matters requiring behavioral accountability, we will seek first to restore relationships and repair harms done.”

Fundamental Principles:

- Acknowledge that relationships are central to building community
- Build systems that address misbehavior and harm in a way that strengthens relationships
- Focus on the harms done rather than only on rule breaking
- Give voice to the person harmed
- Engage in collaborative problem-solving
- Empower change and growth
- Enhance responsibility

Connecticut School Climate Policy

[**EHPS Policy 5131.911**](#) rev. 6/12/24

With the passage of P.A. 23-167, the previous anti-bullying policy has been replaced by the CT School Climate Policy. The changes shift the focus to addressing challenging behaviors by creating a restorative school environment. This focuses on building relationships, and repairing them when harm is done.

Challenging behavior is defined as:

behavior that negatively impacts school climate or interferes, or is at risk of interfering, with the learning or safety of a student or the safety of a school employee.

The definition of “bullying” as revised in the 2023 legislation is:

unwanted and aggressive behavior among children in grades Kindergarten to twelve, inclusive, that involves a real or perceived power imbalance.

[**Board Policy 5131.913**](#) Cyberbullying is defined as, any act of bullying through the use of the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone or other mobile electronic devices or any electronic communications.

District Policies Regarding Discipline

The policies outline the definitions, required procedures, and possible discipline/consequences. [**Board Policy 5114**](#) (revised 5/14/25) specifically talks about the definitions, procedures and expectations for removal/suspension/expulsion.

Full copies of these Board of Education policies can be seen on the district website, www.easthaddamschools.org

Family members are expected to read policies 5131.911, 5131.913, and 5114 in their entirety. You may click on the highlighted links above to access them on the district website.

Student Learning Information

Reporting Practices

Close communication between parents and teachers by means of progress reports and conferences is essential in understanding the needs and progress of each student. School wide progress reporting occurs in December, March, and the last day of school in June. Additionally there are early dismissal conference days on October 14, 15, and 16, and March 10, 11, and 12. You are encouraged to arrange a conference with your child's teacher whenever you feel the need to discuss their progress or concerns you might have.

Connecticut Core Standards CCS

1. What are Connecticut Core Standards?
 - standards identify what students should know and be able to do at each grade
 - the standards are designed to better prepare students for college and career
2. How do the CCS help our children?
 - The standards will prepare our children to succeed in a global economy / society
 - The standards will prepare our children to apply knowledge and actively solve problems
 - The standards provide our children with consistent focus on high level skills in mathematics and reading, writing, speaking, listening, across many subjects

Key Ideas in the English Language Arts, Literacy, and Mathematics Standards

English Language Arts	Literacy in Social Studies, Science & Technical Subjects	Mathematics
K-12 READING: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Learn the foundation skills of reading to be able to focus on comprehending texts across many subjects ▪ Read more complex texts with each grade level ▪ Read a balance of fiction and non-fiction (information) texts ▪ Close reading to find evidence to answer questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read, write, speak, and listen at high levels in all subjects ▪ Build knowledge of the world through close reading of texts on many topics and subjects ▪ 21st Century college, careers, and citizenship requires the understanding complex texts and performing complex tasks 	Kindergarten - Grade 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop a strong foundation in whole numbers, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and fractions ▪ Build deep understanding, not just procedural skill ▪ Develop fluency (speed and comfort) in computation, measurement, and ratios and proportional reasoning
K-12 WRITING: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Argument – taking a side on an issue using evidence from what was read ▪ Explanatory – explaining a topic using evidence from what was read ▪ Narrative – telling a story using literary devices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "Technical subjects" are those with high levels of procedural knowledge ("how to") including the Arts; Physical Education; Health; Career & Technical Education Subjects; Information & Communication Technologies, and all World Languages. 	Grades 9-12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Emphasize the use of mathematics and statistics to analyze problems, understand them better, and improve decisions. ▪ Apply mathematics to novel situations with multiple solutions, as college students and employees regularly do.
K-12 SPEAKING & LISTENING & K-12 LANGUAGE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research to build knowledge and present knowledge to others ▪ Academic vocabulary ▪ Opportunities to speak, question and take part in discussions 	An Example of a Grade 11-12 Standard for Reading in Science and the Technical Subjects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats or media (e.g. data table, video, article) in order to address a question or solve a problem. 	K-12 Standards for Math Practice <i>(The behaviors and habits of successful math students)</i> For Example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them ▪ Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning

Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)

The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) are a new set of K–12 science standards that were developed by states, for states. The NGSS identifies scientific and engineering practices, crosscutting concepts, and core ideas in science that all K–12 students should master in order to prepare for success in college and 21st-century careers.

Students at EHES learn these skills through hands-on experiences not only through our science curriculum, but in our STEM program as well.

EHPS Transferable Skills

Transferable skills are those that you learn and practice repeatedly throughout your education. They are beneficial because they are skills needed to be a contributing and effective member of society, the work force,

Transferable Skills Competency 1: An East Haddam graduate is an effective communicator who exchanges thoughts and ideas in a variety of formats and settings.

K-12 Performance Indicators

- a. Conveys thoughts and ideas using a variety of modes.
- b. Organizes communication that strategically incorporates evidence.
- c. Applies tone, style, and conventions that are engaging and appropriate to the audience, purpose, discipline, and platform.
- d. Listens actively to others and responds reflectively to the information or viewpoints presented.

Transferable Skills Competency 2: An East Haddam Public Schools graduate is an informed thinker who uses critical thinking skills to draw conclusions and reach justifiable decisions.

K-12 Performance Indicators

- a. Analyzes information from multiple sources to frame questions related to a decision.
- b. Asks significant questions that clarify various points of view and lead to better understanding.
- c. Evaluates new and diverse perspectives throughout the decision-making process to broaden understanding.
- d. Synthesizes information to draw conclusions or make decisions.

Transferable Skills Competency 3: An East Haddam Public Schools graduate is a problem solver who strategizes and innovates to develop solutions.

K-12 Performance Indicators

- a. Analyzes complex problems to determine the resources needed to construct an action plan.
- b. Creates, implements, and evaluates an action plan that leads to an initial solution.
- c. Embraces feedback and revision to arrive at an innovative and practical solution.
- d. Applies flexible thinking and persistence both independently and collaboratively.

Transferable Skills Competency 4: An East Haddam Public Schools graduate is a self-directed learner who engages in inquiries across multiple disciplines and contexts.

K-12 Performance Indicators

- a. Poses open-ended questions to guide investigation on a topic of interest.
- b. Gathers and evaluates information from a variety of valid and reliable sources.

- c. Develops a claim or thesis statement that answers the inquiry question.
- d. Develops and cites evidence and draws conclusions based on evidence.
- e. Demonstrates new learning through an appropriate product.
- f. Articulates and reflects upon the process of inquiry.

Transferable Skills Competency 5: An East Haddam Public Schools graduate is a responsible citizen who contributes to the school and larger communities.

K-12 Performance Indicators

- a. Takes ownership of personal decisions and actions.
- b. Communicates respectfully through all platforms.
- c. Respects diversity and shows compassion toward others even when views differ.
- d. Sustains ethical conduct.
- e. Positively contributes talents and strengths to foster connections.
- f. Demonstrates habits that promote personal and community wellness.

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)

Children may not always be doing the exact same thing at the exact same time as their peers in the same class. If a child is struggling with a specific concept or skill, the child will receive additional short-term assistance in small flexible groups. If that child continues to struggle with academic or behavioral challenges, other small group and/or individual interventions will be provided and the progress will be carefully monitored. This is referred to as tiered intervention. These interventions may be provided by specialists other than their child's teacher (e.g., reading specialists, teachers of English language learners, school counselors, school psychologists, speech and language specialists and/or special education teachers), however the interventions are part of the regular education system provided to all students, regardless of which specialist provides the services. You may hear the term Tier 2 intervention or Tier 3 intervention.

Reading/Math Intervention

The Reading and Math Interventionists work closely with classroom teachers to support students as they find success in their learning. Students are provided academic intervention support in reading, language arts and math. Interventions are provided to large and small groups of students, as needed. Our intervention teachers consult with classroom teachers and parents/guardians as they seek to vary instructional strategies and materials for student learning.

Pupil Services

[EHPS Board Policy 6159](#) revised 6/25/25

Staff meet regularly to ensure that students are receiving the most appropriate level of support through the MTSS (intervention for remediation and enrichment) process. If staff or families feel that students may have a disability that is impacting their child's ability to learn, the school or parent is able to make a referral to a Planning and Placement Team (PPT) or to a Section 504 meeting to discuss and further investigate these concerns. Parents are highly encouraged to participate in their child's education program and are integral components to PPT or Section 504 meetings. If you have any concerns regarding your child's learning, behavior, or social skills, please reach out to their classroom teacher. If difficulties persist, call or email the building Principal, who will either direct you to a school staff member who has expertise in the area of concern (i.e. Reading/Math specialist, School Psychologist/Social Worker), or help facilitate a team meeting to look more deeply at these concerns with members of the EHES staff.

Third Grade Annual Assessments

Annual state testing is administered for third graders to obtain a standardized evaluation of our instructional/assessment approach to teaching and student progress. Third grade online testing will take place in the spring (dates and test format to be determined by the State Department of Education). Results of these tests will be communicated with parents upon the return of the results from the State's testing service, which typically occurs in the fall of the following school year.

Homework Expectations

[EHPS Board Policy 6154](#)

Worthwhile homework benefits students. Homework at the elementary school level should be practice connected to a class lesson, review or reinforcement of a previously learned concept/skill, be clearly understood by students, and be well planned and meaningful. We value a young child's need for play time, time with families, and balancing school and home life, and consider these factors when assigning homework. If you have specific questions about working with your child at home or assignments given, please reach out to the classroom teacher.

School Issued Computers

EHES has moved to 1:1 portable devices for all students in K-3rd grade (preschool students have access to devices as needed). At the onset of the school year, each student is assigned a school-issued Chromebook. For the most part these are used in the classroom to supplement learning and to practice typing and word processing skills outlined in the ISTE Standards.

Field Trips

[EHPS Board Policy 6153- Field Trips](#)

As part of the educational program of the school, children may take field trips to various points of interest. These field trips are carefully planned and supervised by teachers and school staff. Parents may be contacted to help chaperone field trips. If a parent/family member is a chaperone, we ask that you follow the protocols of the trip as set forth by the teacher/school staff. A student will not be permitted to go on a field trip without a signed parent/guardian permission slip.

Family Resource Center ~ FRC

The East Haddam Family Resource Center is a place for early childhood learning and support for children, parents and caregivers. The FRC is located in room 205. The FRC offers many services and programs for families including playgroups and parent/caregiver education and support groups. All programs are free but require registration. For More information email Linda LaBrec at linda.labrec@easthaddamschools.org

Other School Related Information

Name tags (kindergarten and preschool)

Please be sure that students wear name tags for the first two weeks of school. There are many people in the school community who need to learn your child's name. Name tags promote better communication and support. Please ensure they have them on in the morning when they arrive.

Enrollment in Kindergarten (important update)

The State of Connecticut has revised the age eligibility requirement for enrolling in Kindergarten beginning the 2024-2025 school year. Starting the 2024-2025 school year, children need to turn 5 years old on or before September 1st of the school year to be automatically eligible to enroll in Kindergarten. Please see Section 1 of [Public Act 23-208 An Act Making Certain Revisions to the Educational Statutes](#).

School Safety Drills

All schools are required to conduct monthly drills with their students. The goal of these drills is preparation for possible hazards that may occur during the school day. These drills are taught to students and practiced so that we build the capacity to be able to react to a real emergency should one occur. Starting this year there will be notice given before and after drills to families. Additionally, should any real emergency situation occur, families will be notified.

Health Forms (kindergarten and preschool and newly enrolled students)

These should be completed by your physician and uploaded to the PowerSchool online registration system as you are enrolling your child (ren) in school.

Emergency Forms

These forms are filled out at the time of registration through the online registration platform. A copy will be provided for you to make edits to if needed and return to the school office no later than the second week in September. Please notify the office immediately of any changes in address or phone number during the year.

School Insurance

School insurance is available to all students at a reasonable cost. Forms will be sent home on the first day of school.

Breakfast, Lunch and Milk

The Board of Education determines breakfast, lunch and milk prices. Breakfast, lunch, and milk is available daily to all students, except the half day Integrated Pre-K Program. Free breakfast is back! Lunch meals must be purchased. The price has gone up to \$4.00, and milk price is \$0.75. If your child needed a second lunch, it would cost an additional \$4.00. Adults wishing to purchase lunch will be charged \$5.00.

School menus are sent home monthly. Please set up your My Payments Plus account to load money to your student's account, check account balance, and track their meal purchases. Go to www.mypaymentsplus.com to register for your free account. Please be sure your child knows whether or not they should be purchasing meals at school. Applications for participation in the Free or Reduced Federal Lunch Program are available on the district school website at [Food](#)

[Services - East Haddam Public Schools](#) These forms can also be completed at any time during the year as a family's resources change. Please contact central office 860-873-5090, if you have any questions regarding the Free or Reduced Federal Lunch Program. Such conversations will remain confidential. This year, anyone eligible for this benefit will have free lunch.

Dress and Grooming

[EHPS BOE Policy 5132](#) rev. 2/12/25

Success in school in both academic and extra-curricular areas is influenced by self-image. Clothing must be school appropriate and promote a healthy, safe, and positive learning environment. Parents are asked to help support student success by supporting the school dress code. The following clothing guidelines are in keeping with the academic atmosphere of the school and reflect respect for the student and others:

1. Clothing must be neat and clean and sufficiently cover the body.
2. The following items of clothing may not be worn:
 - Clothing that has slogans that are offensive, disrespectful, or demeaning.
 - Clothing which could cause injury or damage may not be worn (examples include jewelry or accessories with metal spikes or protrusions, heavy pocket chains, etc.)
 - Clothing that exposes a bare midriff. Clothing that exposes undergarments. Shorts/skirts that are too short (above mid-thigh)
 - Hats and other headgear cannot be worn in school.
 - Other clothing, accessories, or makeup that is disruptive to the educational process may not be worn.
3. Students must wear appropriate footwear at all times; sneakers for gym class and on our playscape equipment.

Students not conforming to the dress standards will be asked to change clothes. Repeated infractions of the dress guidelines will be considered insubordination and will be subject to further disciplinary sanctions

Lost Books

Occasionally books may be lost by students. In the case of lost or overdue materials, the school will notify parents/guardians of the loss. This notice will indicate that grades, transcripts and report cards may be withheld until the materials are returned, or the assessed cost of the materials are reimbursed to the school. All payments for instructional material(s) shall be made payable, by check, to the East Haddam Public Schools. A decision on whether or not the materials are replaced will be made by the Superintendent or designee. Materials should be returned in a timely fashion.

Cell Phones/Electronic Devices

[EHPS BOE Policy 5131.81](#)

Personal cell phones, smartwatches and electronic devices are not permitted for use in the classroom unless specifically required as a part of a student's IEP/504. Students in possession of these devices should have them turned off and stored in backpacks or school bags during the school day. Children who have these out during the school day will have them collected by administration. They will need to be picked up by a parent or guardian.

If a parent/guardian must reach a student, contact the main office. If a student must reach a parent/guardian, they can come to the main office to make a phone call.

Health and Welfare

See Series [5141](#) on the Website for full Board Policies.

Medicines in School (5141.21)

No medication may be administered in school without written permission from a physician and parent/guardian. Policies and procedures related to medicines in school are governed by BOE policy and state regulation. Such policies and regulations may be updated from time to time.

No student may transport medication to or from school, or possess any medication except in specific situations as listed below.

Over-the-Counter Medication

East Haddam Elementary School maintains some over-the-counter (OTC) medication, approved for use by the district's medical advisor, such as ibuprofen, acetaminophen, antacids, cough drops/lozenges, bacitracin etc. for the occasional needs of students. Specific OTC medication may only be administered with parent permission. This permission form can be filled out and submitted through your Parent Portal on PowerSchool. No student may possess or self administer such OTC medication (except as noted under Sunscreen).

Sunscreen

Sunscreen is considered an OTC medication. Students over the age of 6 may possess and self-administer sunscreen with written parent permission is provided. This permission form can be filled out and submitted through your Parent Portal on PowerSchool.

Parents are encouraged to apply sunscreen to their child prior to sending their child to school.

Prescription Medication

Medication prescribed by a licensed medical provider may only be administered in schools after the school has received medical authorization by BOTH the physician and parent.

In most cases, medication will be maintained in the health room and administered by the school nurse or in their absence, by another trained and authorized individual. In some situations, students may be responsible enough to be able to self administer certain prescription medication. In such situations, East Haddam Elementary School requires that a prescribing medical provider and parent provide such authorizations for self-administration.

Health Assessments, Screenings, and Immunizations

Health Assessments

Prior to enrollment in Preschool or Kindergarten, each student is required to have a health assessment by a legally qualified practitioner of medicine, an advanced practice registered nurse, a physician assistant or the school medical advisor to ascertain whether the student has any physical disability or other health problem which could be a barrier to learning.

Students transferring into the district must provide evidence of required Connecticut immunizations and health assessments prior to school attendance.

Health Screenings

Vision and hearing screening will occur annually for all students in grades Kindergarten through three (3). Any concerns will be reported to parents/guardians.

Any vision or hearing screening done as part of mandated health assessments in grades PK or K may be accepted in lieu of school screening.

If a parent/guardian has a concern about their child's vision or hearing, please contact the school nurse.

Immunizations

[*EHPS Board Policy 5141.3*](#)

No student will be allowed to enter district schools without adequate immunizations against disease as outlined in Board of Education Policy and/or Section 19a-7f of Connecticut General Statutes.

Illness or Injury

Illness

Students must remain home if they have the following symptoms:

- A fever (a temperature of 100.4°F or greater), vomiting, or diarrhea: Student may return to school 1 day after their last symptom (without the use of fever reducing medication). For example, if a child's last temperature above 100.4°F occurred on Tuesday (regardless of when on Tuesday) they may return to school on Thursday.
- Respiratory infections that include a continuous bronchial (or barking) cough: A student may return to school once the cough has substantially improved.
- Chicken pox: A student may return to school once their rash has scabbed.
- Strep Throat: A student may return to school when they are no longer contagious (typically 24 hours after starting medication treatment) and fever free for at least 1 day.
- Pediculosis or Head Lice: A child must remain home until they are lice-free, meaning there is no evidence of live head lice. Students will be reexamined in 7 days and again in 14 days after first observation or notice to the school of the presence of head lice (whichever is later).

The school district's medical advisor will provide additional guidance for specific other illnesses or diseases.

Injury

If your child is seriously injured at school every effort will be made to contact you. Please fill out emergency contact information completely and promptly and inform us of any changes in phone numbers, address, or medical information.

Excuses from Physical Education/Physical Activity

A parent's note will be accepted to excuse a child from one day of physical activity. A doctor's note is needed for more than one day's exclusion and should include a date when the child can return to full activity.

Child Abuse and Neglect

[*EHPS Board Policy 5141.4*](#)

Teachers and school employees have the responsibility as mandated reporters to provide information to child protection agencies. District policy and state law define the methods and procedures that must be used. The overall goal of this effort is to ensure the safety of all children.

Asbestos

An Asbestos Management Program has been developed to guarantee that these materials are maintained in a condition in which they do not pose a health hazard. As part of the program, these materials are inspected every six months. Anyone wishing to know more about the Asbestos Management Program or the asbestos-containing materials found in the schools, may ask to see the Asbestos Management Plan which is on file in the Board of Education office.

Pesticide Application

Only certified pesticide applicators shall be used in schools for any non-emergency pesticide use in school buildings or on school grounds. Areas to receive pesticide application will be posted and a written record of all pesticide applications will be maintained for five years. Parents/guardians and staff who want to receive advance notice of all pesticide use will be listed on a registry and such notice will be provided as required by law. Parents/guardians who want to be notified prior to pesticide applications inside their child(ren)'s school assignment area may contact the business manager.

No Smoking Policy

State law and East Haddam Board of Education policy prohibits smoking or use of vaping products at any time on school property. Any person smoking or vaping will be asked to leave the premises.

Required Parental Notification

Policies to noted in the handbook:

6154	Homework
3541.31 & 3541.35 & 3541.5	Transportation
5113.2	Attendance
5131.911 & 5131.913	School Climate /Cyberbullying
5114	Removal/Suspension/Expulsion
1110.1	Parent Involvement
5141 & 5141.21 & 5141.3	Health and Welfare

Policies included in the handbook:

6162.6	Copyrights
5145.41	Non-Discrimination (rev. 4/17/24)
5125	FERPA
6159	IDEA (rev. 6/25/25)
6162.51	PPRA (rev. 6/25/25)

In addition to those policies noted in the handbook, State and Federal regulations require that the following policies also be listed for parental notification. A full summary of these policies and other required notification can be found on the District Website.

Policy Title

Policy Number

Migrant Students	6141.312
Bilingual - Bicultural Education	6141.31
Healthy, Hunger Free Act 2010	6142.101
McKinney Vento Act (homeless students)	5118.1
Transportation Safety Complaint	3541.5
Green Clean Program	3524.2
Promotion, Acceleration, Retention	5123
Reporting to Parents/Progress Reports	5124
Alcohol Use, Drugs and Tobacco	5131.6
Use of Electronic Devices	5131.81
Psychotropic Drug Use	5141.231
Child Abuse Reporting Policies	5141.4
Smoke-Free Environment	1331
Intradistrict Choice	6121.1
Physical Education	6142.6
Comparability of Services (Title 1)	6161.3
Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers	4212.42
Magnet Schools	6172.12
Title I Parental Involvement	6172.4

Copies of these policies can be obtained by contacting the Superintendent's office at 860-873-5090 or via the school district website at www.easthaddamschools.org and clicking on the link labeled Policy Manual. If you have any questions about any of the aforementioned policies, please contact your child's principal or call Dr. Teresa DeBrito, Superintendent of Schools, at 860-873-5090.