

Policy Committee Meeting
Tuesday, May 26, 2026 6:00 PM

Town Campus Hammonasset Room/Zoom
10 Campus Drive
Madison, CT 06443

Agenda

I. Policies for Review:

- 5040 Admission to the Public Schools at or Before Age 5
- 5090.9 Use of Private Technological Devices by Students
- 5030.2 Interdistrict School Attendance Areas

II. Public Comment

The Town of Madison does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and the meeting facilities are ADA accessible. Individuals who need assistance are invited to make their needs known by contacting the Town ADA/Human Resources Director, Debra Ferrante, at 203-245-6310 or by email at ferranted@madisonct.org at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting.

Policy Summary

May 26, 2026

5040 Admission to the Public Schools at or Before Age 5

Public Act 26-1. Currently, children who turn five after September 1 of the school year may be admitted early to kindergarten through a mandatory early admission waiver process. Pursuant to Public Act 26-1, effective July 1, 2026, this process will become optional for school districts, and as of July 1, 2027, it will be eliminated entirely. Therefore, as of July 1, 2027, all children must be five years old on or before September 1 of the school year in order to enroll in public school kindergarten. The District has chosen to eliminate the waiver process effective July 1, 2026.

5090.9 Use of Private Technological Devices by Students

This policy has been updated to reflect the Board of Education' April 28, 2026 action of cell phones in schools.

5030.2 Interdistrict School Attendance Areas

The policy has been updated to reflect the District becoming a sending and receiving district with New Haven. Technical changes have been made throughout.

Admission to the Public Schools at or Before Age Five

The Madison Board of Education (the "Board") complies with its legal obligation to cause each child five years of age and over and under eighteen years of age who is not a high school graduate and is residing within the Board's jurisdiction to attend school in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 10-184.

Effective July 1, 2024, the Madison Public Schools (the "District") shall be open to resident children five years of age and over who reach age five on or before the first day of September of any school year.

~~Effective July 1, 2026, for children who will not reach the age of five on or before the first day of September of the school year, the District shall no longer consider written requests from the child's parent or guardian may submit a written request to the principal of the school seeking early admission to the District. Upon receipt of such written request, the principal and an appropriate certified staff member shall assess such child to determine whether admitting the child is developmentally appropriate. For decisions relating to early admission to the District, the decision of the principal and appropriate certified staff shall be final.~~

~~The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall be responsible for developing administrative regulations in furtherance of this policy. Such regulations shall identify procedures for the receipt and processing of requests for early admission to the District and for assessing whether early admission of a child is developmentally appropriate.~~

Legal Reference:

Connecticut General Statutes

- 10-15c Discrimination by public schools prohibited. School attendance for five-year-olds
- 10-220 Duties of boards of education
- 10-221 Board of education to prescribe rules, policies, and procedures
- 10-184 Duties of parents. School attendance age requirements

~~Public Act 23-208, "An Act Making Certain Revisions to the Education Statutes."~~

Public Act 26-1, "An Act Concerning the Reallocation of Certain State Funds and Various Provisions Relating to Education, Public Safety, General Government, Elections, Intermediate Care Facilities and Warehouse Distribution Centers."

Date of Adoption: December 12, 2023

Use of Private Technology Devices by Students
(formerly Electronic Communication Device)

Students may possess privately-owned technological devices on school property and/or during school-sponsored activities, in accordance with the mandates of this policy and any applicable administrative regulations as may be developed by the Superintendent of Schools. Effective July 1, 2026, students may continue to possess privately-owned technological devices but the devices must be silenced and stored for the duration of the academic day (“bell-to-bell”) in accordance with the rules and procedures set forth in the administrative regulation associated with this policy.

Definitions

Board Technology Resources

For the purposes of this policy, “Board technology resources” refers to the Madison Board of Education’s (the “Board’s”) computers and instructional technologies; communications and data management systems; informational technologies and the Internet; and any other technology resources owned and/or used by the school district and accessible by students.

Privately-owned Technological Devices

For the purposes of this policy, “privately-owned technological devices” refers to, but is not limited to, privately-owned desktop computers, personal computing devices, cellular phones, Smartphones, network access devices, radios, personal audio players, tablets, walkie-talkies, personal gaming systems, Bluetooth speakers, personal data assistants, and other electronic signaling devices.

Use of Privately-Owned Technological Devices

Privately-owned technological devices may not be used during ~~instructional~~the academic day time, except as specifically permitted by instructional staff, by an established accommodation, or unless necessary for a student to access the district’s digital learning platform or otherwise engage in remote learning if remote learning has been authorized in accordance with applicable law.

On school property, at a school-sponsored activity, while in use for a remote learning activity if remote learning has been authorized in accordance with applicable law, or while being used to access or utilize Board technology resources, the use of any such device for an improper purpose is prohibited. Improper purposes include, but are not limited to:

- Sending any form of a harassing, threatening, or intimidating message, at any time, to any person (such communications may also be a crime);
- Gaining or seeking to gain unauthorized access to Board technology resources;
- Damaging Board technology resources;
- Accessing or attempting to access any material that is obscene, obscene as to minors, or contains pornography;
- Cyberbullying;

- Using such device to violate any school rule, including the unauthorized recording (photographic, video, or audio) of another individual without the permission of the individual or a school staff member; or
- Taking any action prohibited by any Federal or State law.

Search of Privately-Owned Technological Devices

A student’s privately-owned technological device may be searched if the device is on Board property or in a student’s possession at a school-sponsored activity and if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school. Any such search shall be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

Responsibility for Privately-owned Technological Devices

Students are responsible for the safety and use of their privately-owned technological devices. If a privately-owned technological device is stolen, lost, or damaged while the device is on school property or during a school-sponsored activity, a report should be made to the building principal, who will investigate the loss in a manner consistent with procedures for stolen or damaged personal property. Students and parents should be aware that the Board is not liable for any privately-owned technological device that is stolen, lost, or damaged while at school or during a school-sponsored activity. For that reason, students are advised not to share or loan their privately-owned technological devices with other students.

Disciplinary Action

Misuse of the Board’s technology resources and/or the use of privately-owned technological devices to access or utilize the Board’s technology resources in an inappropriate manner or the use of such devices in any manner inconsistent with this policy will not be tolerated and will result in disciplinary action. ~~For students, a violation of this policy may result in loss of access privileges, a prohibition on the use and/or possession of privately owned technological devices on school property or at school-sponsored activities, and/or suspension or expulsion in accordance with the Board’s policies related to student discipline.~~

Access to Board Technology Resources

The Board may permit students, using their privately-owned technological devices, to access the Board’s computers and instructional technologies; communications and data management systems; informational technologies and the Internet; and any other technology resources used by the school district and accessible by students. Students using privately-owned technological devices will agree to access the District’s technology resources only through the designated Wi-Fi network. Additionally, it is the expectation of the Board that students who access these resources while using privately-owned technology devices will act at all times appropriately in ways that are fully in accord with applicable policies concerning technology use as well as all local, state, and federal laws.

Through the publication and dissemination of this policy statement and others related to use of the Board’s computer systems, as well as other instructional means, the Board educates students about the Board’s expectations for technology users.

93 The Board's technology resources shall only be used to access educational information and to promote
94 learning activities both at home and at school. Students are expected to act at all times appropriately in
95 ways that are fully in accord with applicable policies concerning technology use as well as all local,
96 state, and federal laws when using the Board technology resources. Failure to do so will result in the
97 consequences outlined herein and in other applicable policies (including, but not limited to, the Safe
98 School Climate Plan, the Student Discipline Policy and the Use of Computers Policy).
99

100 Students must abide by the procedures outlined in this policy and all policies and applicable regulations
101 outlined in the Board's computer use and other applicable policies. Students will be given specific
102 information for log-on and access procedures for using school accounts. No user may deviate from these
103 log-on/access procedures. **Students are advised that the Board's network administrators have the**
104 **capability to identify users and to monitor all privately-owned technological devices while they are**
105 **logged on to the network.** Students must understand that the Board has reserved the right to conduct
106 monitoring of Board technology resources and can do so *despite* the assignment to individual users of
107 passwords for system security. Any password systems implemented by the Board are designed solely to
108 provide system security from unauthorized users, not to provide privacy to the individual system user.
109 The system's security aspects, message delete function and personal passwords can be bypassed for
110 monitoring purposes. Therefore, students should be aware that they should not have any expectation of
111 personal privacy in the use of privately-owned technological devices to access Board technology
112 resources. This provision applies to any and all uses of the Board's technology resources and any
113 privately-owned technological devices that access the same.
114

115 **Harm to Board Technology Resources**

116 Any act by a student using a privately-owned technological device that harms the Board technology
117 resources or otherwise interferes with or compromises the integrity of Board technology resources will
118 be considered vandalism and will be subject to discipline and/or appropriate criminal or civil action.
119

120 **Closed Forum**

121 This policy shall not be construed to establish a public forum or a limited open forum.
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123 Legal References:

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125 Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-233j

126
127 Conn. Gen. Stat. § 31-48d

128
129 Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 53a-182; 53a-183; 53a-250, *et seq.*

130
131 Electronic Communication Privacy Act of 1986, Public Law 99-508, codified at 28 U.S.C. §§
132 2510 through 2520
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135 Date of Adoption: September 5, 1995
136 Date of Revision: October 15, 1996
137 Date of Revision: December 1, 1998
138 Date of Revision: April 23, 2002
139 Date of Revision: June 1, 2010

140 Date of Revision: June 5, 2012
141 Date of Revision: October 15, 2013
142 Date of Revision: June 21, 2022
143 Date of Revision: June 6, 2023

Regulation #5090.9
Use of Private Technology Devices by Students

Cellular Phones

The use of privately-owned technological devices at school is considered a privilege, not a right. Therefore, students may possess cellular phones and other wireless communication devices on school property and school-sponsored transportation, providing students adhere to the restrictions contained within this regulation and specific school building restrictions outlined in the student handbook.

High School: Students are permitted to bring cellular phones and other wireless communication devices to school. Devices must be silenced and stored in the student’s locker, vehicle, or backpack prior to the start of the academic school day and must remain stored away until the end of the academic day. Students may use cellular phones and other wireless communication devices before and after the academic day in areas designated by the school administration.

~~Students are permitted to bring cellular phones and other wireless communication devices to school. Such devices should remain on silent throughout the school day. Device use, including earbuds, is not permitted, bell to bell, during class time. A teacher may allow use of such devices for course-specific educational purposes. Students may use cellular phones and other wireless communication devices during non-class times in areas designated by the school administration.~~

Middle School: Students are permitted to bring cellular phones and other wireless communication devices to school. Devices must be placed, on silent, in lockers prior to the start of the academic school day and can be collected at the end of the academic day. Students may use cellular phones and other wireless communication devices before and after the academic day in areas designated by the school administration.

PreK-5: Students are discouraged from bringing cellular phones and other wireless communication devices to school. If a parent/guardian sends their student to school with a device, the device must remain on silent for the entire day and remain out of sight and in a student’s bag for the entirety of the school day and while on school-sponsored transportation.

Other Acceptable Uses

Cellular phones and other wireless communication devices are permissible in the following circumstances:

a. IEP, 504, or Health Care/Medical Plan.

Students may use cellular phones, wireless communication devices and other electronic devices during class time when authorized pursuant to an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a Section 504 Accommodation Plan, or a Health Care/Medical Plan with supportive documentation from the student’s physician.

b. Other Reasons.

Other reasons determined appropriate by a school administrator or school administrator’s designee.

Interdistrict School Attendance Areas

The Madison Board of Education (the “Board”) recognizes that students may benefit from having a choice of schools to attend within the Connecticut public school system that is not limited by school and/or ~~Madison’s~~ district boundaries. Public school choice will (1) provide parents and students with greater opportunities to choose the school and / or program that best meets the academic needs of the student; (2) influence positively the level of parent involvement and student motivation; (3) improve academic achievement; (4) reduce racial, ethnic and economic imbalance; and (5) provide a choice of educational programs for students.

The Madison Public Schools (“the District”) will cooperate with the appropriate regional educational service center in the planning and implementation of the state-wide interdistrict public school attendance program in accordance with the timelines and provisions ~~contained within~~set forth in the applicable Connecticut General Statutes, C.G.S. 10-4a as amended by PA 97-290, “An Act Enhancing Educational Choices and Opportunities,” and C.G.S. 10-266aa as amended by P.A. 99-289, “An Act Concerning School Choice and Interdistrict Programs.”

Effective July 1, 2026, the District shall be eligible to participate as a receiving district and a sending district with New Haven. Nonresident students from the ~~New London~~New Haven district who apply pursuant to the regulations approved by the Board, may enroll in the District particular programs or schools in districts in the surrounding areas on a space available basis, without payment of tuition except that the ~~Madison Public Schools~~District shall receive an amount, within available appropriations, from the Department of Education, for each out-of-district student attending a school within the ~~Madison Public Schools~~District. It is recognized that the Regional Educational Service Centers (“RESC”) shall determine which school districts in its area are located close enough to a priority school district to make transportation feasible.

In providing for admission of nonresident students, the ~~Madison Public Schools~~District shall consider:

1. Issues pertaining to the availability of space within a requested school to accommodate the enrollment request. The ~~Madison Public Schools~~District will notify its RESC by March 31 of each year of the space it will have available for students from the surrounding area for the new school year.
2. Programs available and the possible establishment of new programs.
3. Eligibility criteria for participating in a particular program, including age requirements, course prerequisites and required levels of performance.
4. Dates of enrollment of nonresident students in a school or program.

5. The requirement that participants attending school in the ~~Madison Public Schools~~District may do so until they graduate from high school.

It is the policy of the ~~Madison Public Schools~~District to receive nonresident students as part of the state-wide interdistrict public school attendance program in accordance with plan developed with the ~~Regional Educational Service Center~~RES~~C~~. Such planning, the Board believes, should consider, but not be limited to, the issues of definition and determination of space availability, choice of students, transportation to and from school and for after-school activities. Further, planning should consider issues related to special education, prior disciplinary behavior, and acceptance of prior academic work. The ~~Madison Public Schools~~District will not recruit students under this program for athletic or extracurricular purposes. Records of students involved in the interdistrict program will be promptly forwarded to the receiving district.

The Board directs the Superintendent and staff not to make any distinction based on ~~race, sex, ethnic group, religion or disability~~ protected class membership of any student who is in attendance or who seeks admission to any school within the ~~Madison Public Schools~~District in the determination or recommendation of action under this policy.

Magnet School Parent Choice Option

Parents/guardians of students attending District schools shall have the option to enroll their child(ren) in a magnet school with which the District is a non-participating district. This enrollment may occur when an interdistrict magnet school has unused student capacity and may enroll directly into its program any interested student. A student from a district that is not participating in the interdistrict magnet school shall be given preference. The District is obligated to support the operation of the interdistrict magnet school in an amount equal to the per student tuition, if any, charged to participating districts.

- (cf. 5020.1 - Nondiscrimination)
- (cf. 5030 – Assignment of Students to School)
- ~~(cf. 5030.1 – Intra-District / School Attendance Areas)~~
- ~~(cf. 5060.1.2 – Nonresident Attendance)~~
- ~~(cf. 5100.9.1 Student Recruitment)~~

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-4a Education interests of state defined, as amended by PA 97-290 -An Act Enhancing Education Choices and Opportunities

~~10-226a-d Pupils or racial minorities~~

~~10-226b Existence or racial intolerance~~

~~10-226e Plan to correct imbalance~~

~~10-226d Approval of Plan by State Board~~

10-266aa Statewide interdistrict public school attendance program, as amended by P.A. 99-289, An Act Concerning School Choice and Interdistrict Programs.

Date of Adoption: December 7, 1999

Technical Revision: August 22, 2006

**Regulation #5030.2
Interdistrict School Attendance Areas**

No regulations required for Policy #5030.2