



Walnut Ridge School (37-5360-050)

2023-2024

County: Sussex
District: Vernon Township School District
625 Route 517
PO Box 190
Vernon, NJ 07462-0190

Principal: Mrs. Suzanne MacDougall

[School Website](#)

973-764-2801



107
Total Students



PK-PK
Grades Offered

Overview & Resources

The School Performance Reports reflect the New Jersey Department of Education's (NJDOE) commitment to providing parents, students, and school communities with a large variety of information about each school and district. These reports can be used as a tool to help evaluate whether all students have equitable access to high quality education. We encourage you to use these reports to:

- **Learn more** about the school and the district
- **Start conversations** with school community members and ask questions
- **Engage** with school communities to identify where schools are doing well and where they can improve

Important Note for 2023-24 Reports: The NJDOE recommends caution in comparing data from year to year over the last several years.

School Performance Report Resources: The NJDOE has several resource documents that can help you understand and use the School Performance Reports, which can also be found under the "Resource Documents" link at the top of the page:

- One-page guides to help start conversations for [school board members](#), [administrators](#), [educators](#), [elementary](#), and [middle and high school families](#)
- [Reference Guide](#) with details on all the data in these reports
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Understanding Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rates](#)
- [Understanding Student Growth Percentiles](#)
- [Data Privacy Rules](#) (why you see *s and N's in the reports)

Let the NJDOE know how we can improve future reports by taking our [feedback survey](#). Contact reportcard@doe.nj.gov with any questions about the reports

Overview & Resources

School Contact Information

This table contains contact information including principal name, address, phone number, email address, and social media information, if provided.

Type	Contact Information
County	Sussex
District	Vernon Township School District
Principal Name	Mrs. Suzanne MacDougall
Address	625 Route 517, PO Box 190 , Vernon, NJ 07462-0190
Phone Number	973-764-2801
Email Address	smacdougall@vtsd.com
Website	www.vtsd.com
Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/VernonTwpSD
Twitter	https://www.twitter.com/VernonTwpSD

Demographics

Enrollment data reflects enrollment reported at the end of the school year and only includes students attending the school. Students who attend programs at other schools or outside of the district are not included in enrollment counts and percentages.

Enrollment Trends by Grade

This table shows the number of students enrolled by grade for the past three school years. Any students enrolled outside of the grades offered will be included in the total enrollment.

Grade	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
PK	110	122	107
Total	110	122	107

Enrollment Trends by Student Group

This table shows the percentage of students by student group for the past three school years. To protect student and staff privacy, gender percentages may show a range, depending on the overall school population size.

Student Group	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Female	40-45%	45-50%	40-45%
Male	55-60%	50-55%	55-60%
Non-Binary/Undesignated Gender	≤5%	≤5%	≤5%
Economically Disadvantaged Students	15.5%	14.8%	12.1%
Students with Disabilities	58.2%	53.3%	64.5%
Multilingual Learners	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Students Experiencing Homelessness	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Students in Foster Care	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Military-Connected Students	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%
Migrant Students	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Enrollment by Racial and Ethnic Group

This table shows the percentage of students by racial and ethnic group for the past three school years.

Racial And Ethnic Group	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
White	81.8%	81.1%	86.0%
Hispanic	12.7%	16.4%	11.2%
Black or African American	1.8%	0.8%	0.9%
Asian	0.9%	0.8%	0.0%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Two Or More Races	2.7%	0.8%	1.9%

Demographics

Enrollment data reflects enrollment reported at the end of the school year and only includes students attending the school. Students who attend programs at other schools or outside of the district are not included in enrollment counts and percentages.

Enrollment Trends by Full/Half Day PK and KG

This table shows number of students in full day and half day Pre-Kindergarten (PK) and Kindergarten (KG) for the past three school years.

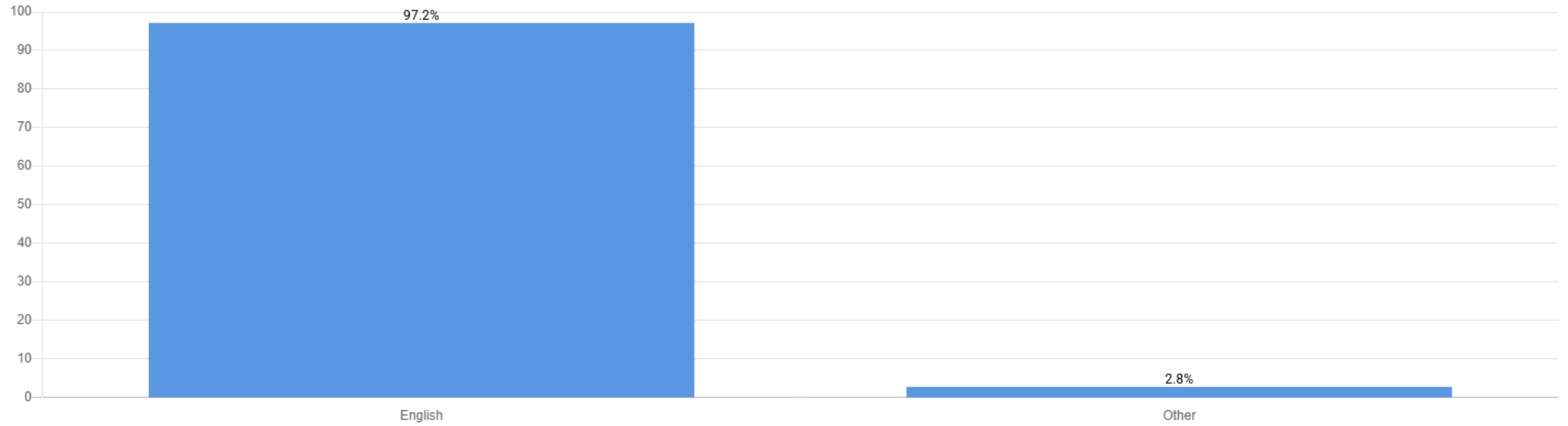
Grade	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
PK - Half Day	94	104	87
PK - Full Day	16	18	20

Demographics

Enrollment data reflects enrollment reported at the end of the school year and only includes students attending the school. Students who attend programs at other schools or outside of the district are not included in enrollment counts and percentages.

Enrollment by Home Language

This table shows the percentage of students by primary home language. Only the top 5 languages with at least 1% of students are shown, and students with other home languages are included in the Other Languages total. To see this data in a table, click the Table View option below the chart.



Climate and Environment

The New Jersey Department of Education collects data through the Student Safety Data System (SSDS). In addition to the data below, NJDOE is required, under ESSA, to report on the most recent, publicly-available Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) data, which can be found on the [NJDOE School Performance webpage](#). Please note that prior to school year 2017-2018, the CRDC and the State collection system, EVVRS, did not collect the same data elements. In an effort to better align the State system with the CRDC, the new Student Safety Data System (SSDS) collects all the required CRDC data elements. NJDOE is in the process of developing a reporting function for the SSDS which will allow LEAs to use the same data for both submissions.

Violence, Vandalism, HIB, and Substance Offenses

This table shows the number of incidents reported by type. A single incident may be counted under multiple incident types. The total unique incidents row provides an unduplicated count of incidents. The last row shows the rate of incidents for every 100 students enrolled.

Incident Type	Number of Incidents
Violence	0
Weapons	0
Vandalism	0
Substances	1
Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying (HIB)	0
Total Unique Incidents	1
Incidents Per 100 Students Enrolled	0.93

Police Notifications

This table shows, by incident type, the number of cases where an incident led to police notification.

Incident Type	Incidents Reported to Police
Violence	0
Weapons	0
Vandalism	0
Substances	1
Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying (HIB)	0
Other Incidents Leading to Removal	0

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Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) Investigations

This table shows, by the nature of the incident, the number of alleged and confirmed Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) investigations. The nature of an incident is based on the protected categories listed below, and the nature of a single HIB investigation may include multiple categories. All confirmed incidents must have an identified nature.

HIB Nature (Protected Category)	HIB Alleged	HIB Confirmed	Total HIB Investigations
Race	0	0	0
Religion	0	0	0
Ancestry	0	0	0
Gender	0	0	0
Sexual Orientation	0	0	0
Disability	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
No Identified Nature	0		0

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Student Disciplinary Removals: By Student Group

This table shows the number and percentage of students who received in-school suspensions, out-of-school suspensions, removals to other educational programs, and expulsions by student group. Information on disciplinary actions is reported by schools and districts to the NJDOE through the Student Safety Data System (SSDS). Only students who attended the school are included in the disciplined student counts. The data used to determine student demographic information, and the enrollment totals used to calculate the percentages come from the fall and end-of-year NJ SMART SID Management snapshots. In some cases, a range, such as <5, is provided for groups of 10 or more students when between 1 and 4 students schoolwide received a type of disciplinary action to protect student privacy.

Student Group	# of Students with at least one In-School Suspension	% of Students with at least one In-School Suspension	# of Students with at least one Out-of-School Suspension	% of Students with at least one Out-of-School Suspension	# of Students with Any Suspension	% of Students with Any Suspension	# of Students with a Removal to other education program	% of Students with a Removal to other education program	# of Students with an Expulsion	% of Students with an Expulsion
Schoolwide	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
White	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Hispanic	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Black or African American	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Asian	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
American Indian or Alaska Native	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Two or more races	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Female	*	0%	*	0%	*	0%	*	0%	*	0%
Male	*	0%	*	0%	*	0%	*	0%	*	0%
Non-Binary/Undesignated Gender	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Economically Disadvantaged Students	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Students with disabilities	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%

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Student Disciplinary Removals: By Grade Level

This table shows the number and percentage of students who received in-school suspensions, out-of-school suspensions, removals to other educational programs, and expulsions by grade level. Information on disciplinary actions is reported by schools and districts to the NJDOE through the Student Safety Data System (SSDS). Only students who attended the school are included in the disciplined student counts. The data used to determine student grade level, and the enrollment totals used to calculate the percentages come from the fall and end-of-year NJ SMART SID Management snapshots. In some cases, a range, such as <5, is provided for groups of 10 or more students when between 1 and 4 students schoolwide received a type of disciplinary action to protect student privacy.

Grade	# of Students with at least one In-School Suspension	% of Students with at least one In-School Suspension	# of Students with at least one Out-of-School Suspension	% of Students with at least one Out-of-School Suspension	# of Students with Any Suspension	% of Students with Any Suspension	# of Students with a Removal to other education program	% of Students with a Removal to other education program	# of Students with an Expulsion	% of Students with an Expulsion
Schoolwide	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
PK	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%

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Students Involved in Police Notifications: By Student Group

This table shows the number and percentage of students who were involved in at least one incident that led to police notification by student group. Information on police notifications is reported by schools and districts to the NJDOE through the Student Safety Data System (SSDS). Only students who attended the school are included in the counts of students involved in incidents leading to police notification. The data used to determine student demographic information, and the enrollment totals used to calculate the percentages come from the fall and end-of-year NJ SMART SID Management snapshots. In some cases, a range, such as <5, is provided for groups of 10 or more students when between 1 and 4 students schoolwide were involved to protect student privacy.

Student Group	# of Students involved in at least one incident	% of Students involved in at least one incident	# of Students involved in at least one violent incident	% of Students involved in at least one violent incident	# of Students involved in at least one vandalism incident	% of Students involved in at least one vandalism incident	# of Students involved in at least one substance related incident	% of Students involved in at least one substance related incident	# of Students involved in at least one weapons related incident	% of Students involved in at least one weapons related incident	# of Students involved in at least one HIB incident	% of Students involved in at least one HIB incident	# of Students involved in at least one other incident type	% of Students involved in at least one other incident type
Schoolwide	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
White	<5	<5.00%	0	0%	0	0%	<5	<5.00%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Hispanic	<5	<5.00%	0	0%	0	0%	<5	<5.00%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Black or African American	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Asian	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
American Indian or Alaska Native	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Two or more races	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Female	*	<5.00%	*	0%	*	0%	*	<5.00%	*	0%	*	0%	*	0%
Male	*	<5.00%	*	0%	*	0%	*	<5.00%	*	0%	*	0%	*	0%
Non-Binary/Undesignated Gender	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Economically Disadvantaged Students	<5	<5.00%	0	0%	0	0%	<5	<5.00%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Students with disabilities	<5	<5.00%	0	0%	0	0%	<5	<5.00%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%

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Students Involved in Police Notifications: By Grade Level

This table shows the number and percentage of students who were involved in at least one incident that led to police notification by grade level. Information on disciplinary actions is reported by schools and districts to the NJDOE through the Student Safety Data System (SSDS). Only students who attended the school are included in the counts of students involved in incidents leading to police notification. The data used to determine student grade level, and the enrollment totals used to calculate the percentages come from the fall and end-of-year NJ SMART SID Management snapshots. In some cases, a range, such as <5, is provided for groups of 10 or more students when between 1 and 4 students schoolwide were involved to protect student privacy.

Grade	# of Students involved in at least one incident	% involved in an incident	# of Students involved in at least one violent incident	% of Students involved in a violent incident	# of Students involved in at least one vandalism incident	% of Students involved in a vandalism incident that led to police notification	# of Students involved in at least one substance related incident	% of Students involved in a substance related incident	# of Students involved in at least one weapons related incident	% of Students involved in a weapons related incident	# of Students involved in at least one HIB incident	% of Students involved in an HIB incident that led to police notification	# of Students involved in at least one other incident type	% of Students involved in an other incident type
Schoolwide	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	1	1%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
PK	<5	<5.00%	0	0%	0	0%	<5	<5.00%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%

Report Key:

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Students Arrested by Type of Incident Leading to Arrest: By Student Group

This table shows the number and percentage of students in select student groups who were involved in at least one incident that led to their arrest. Information on arrests is reported by schools and districts to the NJDOE through the Student Safety Data System (SSDS). Only students who attended the school are included in the arrested student counts. The data used to determine student demographic information, and the enrollment totals used to calculate the percentages come from the fall and end-of-year NJ SMART SID Management snapshots. In some cases, a range, such as <5, is provided for groups of 10 or more students when between 1 and 4 students schoolwide were involved to protect student privacy.

Student Group	# of Students Arrested	% of Students Arrested	# of students involved in at least one violent incident that led to arrest	% of students involved in a violent incident that led to arrest	# of students involved in at least one vandalism incident that led to arrest	% of students involved in a vandalism incident that led to arrest	# of students involved in at least one substance related incident that led to arrest	% of students involved in a substance related incident that led to arrest	# of students involved in at least one weapons related incident that led to arrest	% of students involved in a weapons related incident that led to arrest	# of students involved in at least one HIB incident that led to arrest	% of students involved in an HIB incident that led to arrest	# of students involved in at least one other type of incident that led to arrest	% of students involved in an other type of incident that led to arrest
Schoolwide	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
White	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Hispanic	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Black or African American	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Asian	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
American Indian or Alaska Native	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Two or more races	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Female	*	0%	*	0%	*	0%	*	0%	*	0%	*	0%	*	0%
Male	*	0%	*	0%	*	0%	*	0%	*	0%	*	0%	*	0%
Non- Binary/Undesignated Gender	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Economically Disadvantaged Students	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Students with disabilities	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%

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This table shows the number and percentage of students in each grade level who were involved in at least one incident that led to their arrest. Information on arrests is reported by schools and districts to the NJDOE through the Student Safety Data System (SSDS). Only students who attended the school are included in the arrested student counts. The data used to determine student grade level, and the enrollment totals used to calculate the percentages come from the fall and end-of-year NJ SMART SID Management snapshots. In some cases, a range, such as <5, is provided for groups of 10 or more students when between 1 and 4 students schoolwide were involved to protect student privacy.

Grade	# of Students Arrested	% of Students Arrested	# of Students involved in at least one violent incident that led to arrest	% involved in a violent incident that led to arrest	# of Students involved in at least one vandalism incident that led to arrest	% involved in a vandalism incident that led to arrest	# of Students involved in at least one substance related incident that led to arrest	% involved in a substance related incident that led to arrest	# of Students involved in at least one weapons related incident that led to arrest	% involved in a weapons related incident that led to arrest	# of Students involved in at least one HIB incident that led to arrest	% involved in an HIB incident that led to arrest	# of Students involved in at least one other type incident that led to arrest	% involved in an other type incident that led to arrest
Schoolwide	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
PK	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%

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School Days Missed due to Out-of-School Suspensions

This table shows the total number of days missed due to out-of-school suspension for all students during the school year.

School Days Missed due to Out-of-School Suspensions

0

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Climate and Environment

School Day

This table shows the start and end times and length of school day for a typical student at this school. Instructional time is the amount of time that a typical student was engaged in instructional activities under the supervision of a certified teacher. Full time students attend this school for more than half of the school day and shared-time students attend the school for half of the school day or less.

Category	School
Typical Start Time	9:35 AM
Typical End Time	3:15 PM
Length of School Day	5 Hrs. 40 Mins.
Full Time - Instructional Time	5 Hrs. 0 Mins.
Shared Time - Instructional Time	N

Staff

Staff data reflects teachers and administrators reported by districts at the beginning of the school year.

Key terms for staff data:

Teachers: All classroom teachers

Administrators: Principals, assistant principals, supervisors, coordinators, directors, and other central-office administrators, as well as superintendents and other district-level administrators

Experience: Experience is based on information submitted by districts on all their staff members. For purposes of this report, the ESSA Educator Equity and federal reporting requirements, NJDOE has defined teachers as "inexperienced" if they have fewer than four years of prior experience in a given district. The tables below report on "experienced" teachers and administrators for federal reporting purposes.

Out-of-Field: A teacher is labeled "out-of-field" if they are potentially teaching outside their area of certification. This could occur if the teacher cannot be found in the NJDOE's certification system, if their job code does not match their certification, or if the teacher has an expired certificate.

Provisional Teacher: A teacher with provisional certifications is a fully certified novice teacher of record who must meet further requirements of evaluation and mentoring during their induction into the profession before being granted "standard" or permanent certification.

Teachers – Experience

This table shows information about the experience and professional qualifications of teachers. Out-of-field teachers are teachers who are potentially teaching outside of their area of certification. Teachers with provisional certifications are fully certified novice teachers of record who must meet further requirements of evaluation and mentoring during their induction into the profession before being granted "standard" or permanent certification. The New Jersey Department of Education does not issue emergency instructional certificates for teachers. Additional data on the professional qualifications of teachers and administrators, broken down by schools with high or low economically disadvantaged populations, is available on the [School Performance Staff page](#).

Category	Teachers in School	Teachers in State
Total Number of teachers	6	119,239
Average years experience in public schools	10.4	12.6
Average years experience in district	10.4	11.3
Number of Teachers with 4 or more years experience in the district	3	87,243
Percentage of Teachers with 4 or more years experience in the district	60.0%	73.6%
Number of out-of-field teachers	1	2,931
Percentage of out-of-field teachers	16.7%	2.5%
Number of Teachers with Provisional Credentials	2	9,065
Percentage of Teachers with Provisional Credentials	33.3%	7.6%

Administrators – Experience

This table shows information about the experience of administrators assigned to this school and across the state.

Category	Admin. in School	Admin. in State
Total Number of administrators	N	10,170
Average years experience in public schools	N	16.2
Average years experience in district	N	12.5
Number of Administrators with 4 or more years experience in the district	N	7,734
Percentage of Administrators with 4 or more years experience in the district	N	76.8%

Staff Counts

This table shows the number of staff members assigned to the school, district, and state across several staff categories. The staff counts in this table reflect data submitted by districts to NJ SMART and reflect any teachers assigned and are not based on full-time equivalent (FTE). Additionally, some staff members may be assigned to the district only but work in multiple schools in the district. In these cases, the table may show 0 staff members assigned to the school, even though there are district staff members working in the school. The School Safety Specialists data is based on data submitted by districts in the CDS system and is not available at the school level because it is a district assigned position.

Staff Category	School: Total Staff Members	District: Total Staff Members	State: Total Staff Members
Teachers	6	236	119,239
Administrators	N	16	10,170
Librarians/Media Specialists	N	1	1,160
Nurses	1	6	3,025
School Counselors	N	10	4,673
Child Study Team Members	4	21	9,654
School Psychologists	1	4	2,185
School Social Workers	N	3	2,750
Student Assistance Coordinators	N	1	400
School Safety Specialists	N	1	681

Report Key:

- * Data is not displayed in order to protect student privacy
- ** Accountability calculations require 20 or more students
- N No Data is available to display
- † This indicates a table specific note, see note below table

Staff

Staff data reflects teachers and administrators reported by districts at the beginning of the school year.

Key terms for staff data:

Teachers: All classroom teachers

Administrators: Principals, assistant principals, supervisors, coordinators, directors, and other central-office administrators, as well as superintendents and other district-level administrators

Experience: Experience is based on information submitted by districts on all their staff members. For purposes of this report, the ESSA Educator Equity and federal reporting requirements, NJDOE has defined teachers as "inexperienced" if they have fewer than four years of prior experience in a given district. The tables below report on "experienced" teachers and administrators for federal reporting purposes.

Out-of-Field: A teacher is labeled "out-of-field" if they are potentially teaching outside their area of certification. This could occur if the teacher cannot be found in the NJDOE's certification system, if their job code does not match their certification, or if the teacher has an expired certificate.

Provisional Teacher: A teacher with provisional certifications is a fully certified novice teacher of record who must meet further requirements of evaluation and mentoring during their induction into the profession before being granted "standard" or permanent certification.

Student and Staff Ratios

This table shows ratios of students and staff members in the school and district. The ratios are based on data submitted by districts to NJ SMART and are not based on staff full-time equivalent (FTE). The School Safety Specialists data is based on data submitted by districts in the CDS system and is not available at the school level because it is a district assigned position.

Ratio	School Ratio	District Ratio
Students to Teachers	18:1	12:1
Students to Administrators	N	183:1
Teachers to Administrators	N	15:1
Students to Librarians/Media Specialists †	N	2922:1
Students to Nurses †	107:1	487:1
Students to Counselors †	N	292:1
Students to Child Study Team Members †,††	17:1	35:1
Students to School Psychologists †	107:1	730:1
Students to School Social Workers †	N	974:1
Students to Student Assistance Coordinators †	N	2922:1
Students to School Safety Specialists †	[REDACTED]	2922:1

† In some districts, staff members in these roles who work in multiple schools may be assigned only to the district and not to individual schools. As a result, a School Ratio may show N, but there may be district assigned staff working in the school

†† Child Study Team members include school psychologists, school social workers, and learning disabilities teacher consultants, also note that the ratio compares Students with Disabilities instead of all students.

Teachers and Administrators – Demographics

This table compares the percentage of students, teachers, and administrators by gender and by racial and ethnic group. To protect student and staff privacy, gender percentages may show a range, depending on the overall school population size.

Category	Students in School	Teachers in School	Administrators in School	Students in State	Teachers in State	Administrators in State
Female	40-45%	*	N	48.0%	77.0%	57.0%
Male	55-60%	*	N	52.0%	23.0%	43.0%
Non-Binary/Undesignated Gender	≤5%	*	N	≤1%	≤1%	≤1%
White	86.0%	100.0%	N	38.2%	81.8%	74.5%
Hispanic	11.2%	0.0%	N	34.0%	8.6%	8.6%
Black or African American	0.9%	0.0%	N	14.2%	6.4%	14.4%
Asian	0.0%	0.0%	N	10.1%	2.5%	1.6%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.0%	0.0%	N	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	N	0.2%	0.4%	0.5%
Two or More Races	1.9%	0.0%	N	3.1%	0.3%	0.4%

Staff

Staff data reflects teachers and administrators reported by districts at the beginning of the school year.

Key terms for staff data:

Teachers: All classroom teachers

Administrators: Principals, assistant principals, supervisors, coordinators, directors, and other central-office administrators, as well as superintendents and other district-level administrators

Experience: Experience is based on information submitted by districts on all their staff members. For purposes of this report, the ESSA Educator Equity and federal reporting requirements, NJDOE has defined teachers as "inexperienced" if they have fewer than four years of prior experience in a given district. The tables below report on "experienced" teachers and administrators for federal reporting purposes.

Out-of-Field: A teacher is labeled "out-of-field" if they are potentially teaching outside their area of certification. This could occur if the teacher cannot be found in the NJDOE's certification system, if their job code does not match their certification, or if the teacher has an expired certificate.

Provisional Teacher: A teacher with provisional certifications is a fully certified novice teacher of record who must meet further requirements of evaluation and mentoring during their induction into the profession before being granted "standard" or permanent certification.

Teachers and Administrators - Level of Education

This chart shows the highest level of education attained by teachers and administrators. The Bachelor's degree category may include other degrees/certificates such as a Specialist's degree. Administrators are required to have a Master's degree or higher.

Teachers and Administrators - One-Year Retention (District Level)

This table shows the percentage of teachers and administrators assigned to this district in 2022-23 that were still assigned to this district in 2023-24. Staff who were not retained may have changed districts or no longer work for the state (including retirements).

Job Type	District	State
2022-23 Teachers: Same district 2023-24	79.7%	89.5%
2022-23 Administrators: Same district 2023-24	63.6%	87.9%

Staff

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Teachers by Subject Area

This table shows the counts of teachers by subject area with gender breakdown, experience, and level of education. The staff counts in this table reflect staff assignments as submitted by districts to NJ SMART and reflect any teachers assigned and are not based on full-time equivalent (FTE). Note that some teachers may teach in multiple subject areas and may be counted more than once in this table, or they may only be counted in their primary subject area. Additionally, in many elementary schools, teachers are not assigned to specific subject areas, so they will appear in the Elementary (Not Subject Specific) category and not in the other subject areas, but that does not mean those subjects are not being taught in the school. Special Education and Bilingual teachers are generally assigned to a subject area and also either special education or bilingual, so those teachers will be counted in multiple subject areas.

Subject Area	Total Number of Teachers	% Female	% Male	% Non-binary or Undesignated Gender	% White	% Hispanic	% Black or African American	% Asian	% Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	% American Indian or Native American	% Two or More Races	% 4 or more years experience in the district	% Bachelor's Degree(Highest Degree)	% Master's Degree(Highest Degree)	% Doctoral Degree(Highest Degree)
Elementary (Not Subject Specific)	6	*	*	*	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	60.0%	66.7%	33.3%	0.0%
English/Language Arts/Literacy	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
English to Speakers of Other Languages	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Mathematics	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Science	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Social Studies/History	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
World Language	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Visual and Performing Arts	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Health/Physical Education	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Family & Consumer Sciences	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Financial Literacy	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Business	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Computer Science/IT	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Industrial Arts	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Career and Technical Education	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Special Education	5	*	*	*	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	60.0%	40.0%	0.0%
Bilingual	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N

Per-Pupil Expenditures

Per-Pupil Expenditures by Source

The table below summarizes the most recently available expenses for regular and special education students taught at schools in the district. The amounts include both actual personnel and actual non-personnel expenditures and include expenditures for instruction, support services, administration, operations and maintenance, and extra-curricular activities. An overall cost per pupil for a given school can be calculated by adding the Central Expenditures and the Expenditures Not Assigned to a School to the School Level Expenditures reported for that school. The Average Daily Enrollment (ADE**) comes from the 2023-24 School Registry Summary (SRS).

For more information regarding this table please refer to the guidance for school level reporting, which is available on the [NJDOE webpage ESSA School Level Reporting Information](#). More in-depth information about district and charter school spending can be found in the [User Friendly Budget](#) and the [Annual Comprehensive Financial Report \(ACFR\) and Auditor Management Reports \(AMRs\)](#).

Please be aware that the total district expenditures represented in these reports are taken from audited district financial data, but the subsequent allocation of these resources to specific schools is not audited or otherwise verified by the New Jersey Department of Education. If you have specific questions about the assignment (or lack of assignment) of school-level amounts, please contact the district for additional information.

[Link to District Summary of 2023-24 School-Level Per Pupil Expenditures by Source](#)

An option to [download all school-level summaries by district](#) in one spreadsheet is also available. However, because districts have flexibility in how certain costs are allocated to individual schools, school-level costs should not be compared between schools in different districts.

Vernon Twp	Federal	State & Local	Total	ADE**
District Level Total Expenditures	\$850	\$18,063	\$18,913	2,893.5
District Level Central Expenditures		\$4,371	\$4,371	2,893.5
Vernon Township High School	\$921	\$14,568	\$15,489	902.7
Cedar Mountain Primary School	\$294	\$13,737	\$14,031	428.7
Glen Meadow Middle School	\$1,512	\$12,250	\$13,762	642.5
Lounsberry Hollow School	\$670	\$13,775	\$14,445	423.9
Rolling Hills Primary School	\$485	\$12,599	\$13,084	400.7
Walnut Ridge School	\$537	\$19,176	\$19,713	95.0

Narrative

This section allows schools and districts to share highlights, achievements, and other important information about programs, activities, and services that are offered in their own words. Please note that the narrative is optional, so only categories in which the district chose to share information will be displayed. If there are questions about the information provided in the narrative section, please contact the school or district directly.



Highlights:

- The district uses Tools of the Mind, a state-approved preschool curriculum promoting cognitive, social, and emotional growth through evidence-based practices supporting young learners' development.
- Dual-certified Preschool and Special Education teachers bring expertise to support the diverse academic, developmental, and social-emotional needs of all young learners effectively.
- Walnut Ridge values parent engagement with events like STEM nights to build strong family connections and promote collaborative learning within the school community.



Mission, Vision, Theme:

Our mission is to provide a fun, engaging, and high-quality early childhood education, while fostering a nurturing and caring community of children, parents, and highly skilled staff. Through a play-based program that is focused on the whole child, we seek to serve each and every child as an individual, and to empower each child to grow and develop at his or her own rate. Through the cooperative partnership of parents and staff, we aim to provide a model of community that prioritizes kindness and friendship and will sustain and enrich our children throughout their lives.



Awards, Recognition, Accomplishments:

Walnut Ridge participates in the NJ DOE Governor's Teacher of the Year Program. This year our recipient is Ms. Samantha Bubendorf (teacher). We are very proud to partner with many local organizations to bring fun and exciting events and programs to our school including Pochuck Valley Farms, The Highland Lakes Fire Department, Zufall Health Center, Price Chopper of Warwick, NY, and The West Milford Shoprite - to name a few.

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Courses, Curriculum, Instruction:

Tools of the Mind is rooted in Vygotsky's Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD), which highlights the difference between what a child can accomplish independently and what they can achieve with the guidance of a teacher or skilled peer. This approach ensures that students are consistently placed in engaging and challenging situations, motivating them to reach for learning just beyond their current abilities. Tools of the Mind teachers prioritize fostering intentional and reflective learners by tailoring instruction to reflect each child's learning capacity rather than solely age-level expectations. Through individualized play planning, students make thoughtful decisions about their play, demonstrating the development of executive function, self-regulation, and foundational academic skills. This personalized approach allows children to progress at their own pace while building and scaffolding the skills necessary for writing, reading, and content literacy.



Before and After School Programs:

The Vernon Police Athletic League (PAL) offers a before and after care program that is coordinated with each school. The PAL is very involved with the Vernon School District providing sports and other recreational activities for our students.



Staff and Professional Learning:

Teachers at The Walnut Ridge School keep current through professional development provided in and out of the school and by taking graduate level courses, teacher-led in-service courses, peer coaching, and webinars. Our teachers are exceptional and many have earned advanced degrees in the field of education.

Narrative

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Student Supports and Services:

Walnut Ridge offers a full range of special education services within our Preschool Disabled Program. Among these are OT, PT, and Speech services. Our classes use varying levels of supports to match the needs of students so that they can thrive within a least restrictive environment. We offer Discrete Trial Instruction when appropriate and also use a State approved curriculum for Preschool - Tools of the Mind.



Student Health and Wellness:

The Walnut Ridge School is dedicated to fostering healthy lifestyle choices for our youngest learners by promoting physical, emotional, social, and environmental wellness. Through a combination of structured and unstructured learning opportunities, students are encouraged to embrace wellness principles in their daily lives. The program emphasizes key topics such as healthy nutrition, regular physical activity, respect and care for oneself and others, and environmental stewardship, empowering students to build a foundation for lifelong well-being.



Parent and Community Involvement:

Walnut Ridge is proud to be a part of Cedar Mountain's school community association. The SCA help support the mission of Walnut Ridge and is dedicated to making the school great for their children. Parents and community members support students through academic and social enrichment activities. Parent and community involvement is a vital aspect of the successful preschool experience and continues to be a priority of Walnut Ridge. We make an effort to present major community/parent events in our school as much as possible to encourage parent and community participation.

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Climate Surveys:

Is a Climate Survey Used: Yes; Who is surveyed: Parents, Administrators, Teachers. Our school climate survey, developed collaboratively by the school district and the Board of Education, was distributed across all schools, including The Walnut Ridge School, to gather valuable insights and feedback.



Facilities:

As the first building in our district, built in 1957, all areas have been updated to accommodate 21st-century learning. All classrooms have air conditioning, our gym floor has been redesigned, and each of our classrooms has a Smart or Ben Q board mounted for daily use with instruction.



School Safety:

The Vernon Police Department assigns a School Resource Officer to all district schools, supported by a Memorandum of Agreement. Walnut Ridge has an armed, retired police officer on-site whenever students are present. A 24-hour camera system monitors activity inside and outside the school. Exterior doors and ground-level windows remain locked during the school day. Visitors must use the secure vestibule at the entrance, where their driver's licenses are scanned. The door monitor uses Raptor Visitor Management software to issue an ID sticker, which visitors wear during their visit and return upon departure. Walnut Ridge conducts monthly fire and security drills, including active shooter, non-fire evacuation (Green Alerts), bomb threats, lockdowns (Red Alerts), tabletop, and AED (Annie Alerts) exercises. The Director of School Safety and Security oversees and participates in all drills to ensure preparedness.

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Technology and STEM:

All students were provided with their "own" Chromebook to use throughout the school year. This provides students with the opportunities to enhance their educational experience and to work independently during WIN time and when completing online assignments, using programs such as Amira and Dreambox, both at home and at school. Online assessment tools including LinkIt and iReady become "second nature" to students as they are more familiar with both the software and the hardware available for them to use on a daily basis. Assistance from the Technology Coach has provided teachers with the ability to better utilize their SmartBoards and ideas to incorporate more technological tools with their students.



Early Childhood Education:

Walnut Ridge currently offers a half-day preschool program for 3- and 4-year-olds, serving over 100 students. Approximately half of the enrolled students transition into our program from Early Intervention services and attend tuition-free. General education peers participate at a cost of \$400 per month or \$4,000 per year. The program follows the NJDOE-approved Tools of the Mind curriculum, recognized as an exemplary model of early childhood education. Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, we are excited to transition to a full-day, tuition-free preschool program, made possible through preschool expansion funding awarded by the state. This initiative will allow us to provide even greater access to high-quality early childhood education, supporting the developmental and academic growth of all students in our community.



Attendance:

The Walnut Ridge School Provided in-person learning opportunities for all students. Students that were quarantined, sick, or chose to be virtual were offered asynchronous learning opportunities through Schoology platform. Students were also offered to come pick up packets to utilize at home if they were quarantined due to COVID. Teachers were given trauma-based training to help students return back into school. School administrators such as school principal were available to students and teachers in the event the need for extra care was needed. Teachers trained throughout the school year with school counselors to troubleshoot any situations that arose within the school.

Report Key:

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- N** No Data is available to display
- † This indicates a table specific note, see note below table

Narrative

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Other Information:

At WR we believe in the importance of research-based early childhood models that empower students through innovative, play-based curricula that ultimately equip students with the cognitive, social-emotional, self-regulatory, and foundational academic skills to become ready-learners prepared for Kindergarten and the world around them. For these reasons we have fully embraced the Tools of the Mind curriculum. "Tools" is authentically built for the inclusion of students with disabilities, and is centered around rich, yet developmentally-appropriate, content, as well as optimizing child engagement and socialization. Tools of the Mind is based on the Vygotskian theories and neuroscientific research in education that sought to identify the best approach to learning. His research led, in part, to an understanding of the Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD). ZPD refers to the conceptual difference between what a child can do independently and what they can do with the aid of a teacher or skilled peer. Thus, our students are consistently placed in situations where they are motivated and challenged to strive for learning that is just within the limits of their efforted reach. Tools teachers are focused on helping children become intentional and reflective learners, creating a classroom in which instruction in literacy, mathematics, and science reflect children's learning capacity, rather than age-level expectation. This approach manifests itself through "play planning". Through play planning, students are able to make mindful decisions regarding how they will play in their class, therefore showcasing their developing executive function, self-regulation skills, and core academic skills. Because play plans are individualized, students are able to work at their own pace and at a level of rigor commensurate with their individual development and ZPD. Over the course of the school year, our students develop and scaffold skills that lead to writing, reading, and content literacy.