



Voorhees & Gibbsboro School Districts Partner to Open Dedicated Early Childhood Development Center



In this photo: Exterior view of the future Voorhees Early Childhood Development Center located at 250 Haddonfield-Berlin Road in Gibbsboro. Photo provided by WCRE | CORFAC International.

VOORHEES, NJ – The Voorhees Township Public School District is excited to announce a shared service agreement with the Gibbsboro Public School District to expand preschool for children in both communities.

After a multi-year search to house their growing population of preschool students, the Voorhees Township Public School District finalized a deal to purchase 250 Haddonfield - Berlin Road in Gibbsboro. During the 2024-2025 school year, 250 Haddonfield - Berlin Road will be transformed into the Voorhees Early Childhood Development Center, a state-of-the-art preschool building for 360 children from Voorhees and Gibbsboro. The building acquisition is a critical step in Voorhees' 5-year plan to serve 500 preschool students by the school year 2026 - 2027.

Building renovations on both levels of the two-story building will take place during the 2024-2025 school year utilizing funds from a \$6 million preschool facilities expansion grant awarded by the New Jersey Department of Education. The grant award represents 40% of the estimated project costs with district share of 60%. The District will use capital reserve for its

share of project costs. In addition to the interior renovations, a playground will be constructed behind the building. Nearby residents will have access to the new playground after school hours and on weekends.

"The new Early Childhood Development Center is a shining example of what can be accomplished when school districts work together to provide high-quality, inclusive early learning opportunities for all children. By pooling resources and expertise, Voorhees and Gibbsboro have created a state-of-the-art facility that will give young children the strong foundation they need to succeed in school and in life," said Monica Watson, Voorhees Township School District Board of Education President.

According to their five-year agreement, Gibbsboro will occupy 5 classrooms and Voorhees will occupy the remaining 19 classrooms. Each classroom will be approximately 950 square feet with individual capacity for 15 children. The District will still use three private preschool providers and the classrooms at Kresson Elementary School in addition to these 19 classrooms.

"The Board looks forward to our collaboration with Voorhees as the shared Early Childhood Development Center building will allow more Gibbsboro families to enroll their children in full-day preschool at no cost. It will also create more space for our K-8 students during the school day in the areas of technology, literacy, and world languages," stated Mrs. Joyce Miller, Gibbsboro Elementary School District Board of Education President.

The school district is planning to host community forums for families to learn more about the new Voorhees Early Child Development Center and to answer any questions that they may have. Details are forthcoming.

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About Voorhees Township Public Schools

Located in Camden County, Voorhees Township Public Schools serves approximately 3,000 students in preschool through eighth grade. The District values the varied and unique contributions, needs, and experiences of its members. While promoting an environment of respect among all people, it provides instructional delivery systems that nurture the potential of all students, giving them the ability to become successful adults. The Board of Education strongly upholds the expectation that all students will meet or exceed state standards at all grade levels.