



## FAQ

### **What is the history of full-day kindergarten in Libertyville School District 70?**

As part of the District 70 five-year Strategic Plan, personnel worked through responses to a parent questionnaire, to gather insight into offering an optional Full-Day Kindergarten program. With a goal of designing and implementing a program under the timeline of the Strategic Plan, great attention was given toward designing two classrooms that offered opportunity for 10 students from each elementary school. In the 2012-2013 and 2013 – 2014 school years, one program was housed at Butterfield School, offering busing for children from Rockland School, while the other site was located at Adler Park School and allowed for student transport from Copeland Manor School. For the 2014 – 2015 academic year, the program was expanded to five classrooms, offering programming at all four elementary school sites. While limited space held back designs for additional full-day offerings, with increased financial strategizing and plans to bring about mobile units to address additional school space, a plan for growth of the program continues. Structural forecasts to address all building needs is ongoing.

### **What is the reason for considering a full-day program?**

As expectations of the new Illinois Learning and Next Generation Science Standards emerge, the reform for teaching and learning of the kindergarten curriculum has shown advanced rigor.

Kindergarten Common Core language standards can be accessed via the following link: [http://www.corestandards.org/assets/CCSSI\\_ELA\\_Standards.pdf](http://www.corestandards.org/assets/CCSSI_ELA_Standards.pdf).

Kindergarten Common Core mathematics standards can be accessed via the following link: <http://www.corestandards.org/Math/Content/K/introduction>.

In addition, based on immediate findings, there continued to be requests to expand the offering for children who attend the District 70 kindergarten program. Offering an extension of kindergarten that would provide academic and social assistance that support and extend learning concepts and enrich social developmental practices was a critical topic brought about during the Strategic Planning session. While many local Districts offer a full-day option, the districts surrounding Libertyville were viewed as those with one-school systems (Kdg-8<sup>th</sup> grade housed on one district site) or grade-based centers (schools of Kdg-2<sup>nd</sup> grade configuration) that allow for easy placement of additional personnel, staffing and classroom allocations. Creating a program that offers full-day kindergarten at all four schools sites in District 70 was viewed as both complicated and in-depth. In working to sustain public interest in maintaining a neighborhood school concept, a commitment was made to further gather information, research program design and build a well-designed program that works in the best interest of all children. As such, a proposal has been approved by the Board of Education to establish full-day kindergarten for all students at the onset of the 2015 – 2016 school year.

**When will the full-day kindergarten program for all be instituted?**

Based on Board of Education approval, the program would begin in all elementary schools August 2015. Although there are textbook rental and technology fees of \$90 per year for all kindergarten students, there will be no additional fees assessed for the full day program for 2015-2016.

**What will be the hours of school?**

Hours would mirror a standard academic day, 8:15-2:45, Monday-Friday, with a 40-minute lunch and recess break. The full-day kindergarten program follows this format with a subsequent extended mid-day break. To provide for a consistent educational program, a five-day attendance commitment, Monday-Friday, is required for Kindergarten students.

**Will a half-day program still be a choice?**

While some families may continue to desire a commitment toward half-day programming, the option for a standard half-day session will be available, Monday-Friday mornings, with dismissal at the lunch break. Busing, however, will not be available for half-day programming. Full-day and half-day students will be enrolled in the same classrooms, so that students leaving mid-day will not greatly affect class demographics, culture and composition. Principals will work closely with families to insure academic scheduling needs are addressed.

**What will the curriculum for a full-day program look like?**

A team of educators including kindergarten teaching staff, support personnel in Social Work and Speech-Language Pathology, as well as outside consultants from local full-day centers have worked together to design a program that enhances instructional programming, focuses on reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies that is paced throughout the academic day. In addition, the program offers physical education, art and music programming, as well as ongoing social skill enrichment, creative exploration and structured play.

**Will transportation be provided?**

Before-and-after school busing will be offered students through the District 70 transportation provider and will match standard grades 1- 5 routes and bus stops currently established.

**Will food service be offered?**

Similar to current practice, lunch will be offered as an optional purchase or students may bring a lunch from home. Milk will be offered for purchase.

It is with hope that these questions and answers provide further insight into this aspect of the District 70 Strategic Plan and a response to constituents, both community and staff, who value the development of such programming. We greatly appreciate feedback offered and will continue to utilize our stakeholder's voice in providing comment, direction and insight into this plan.