

Updated Aug. 17, 2012

FAQ About District 70 and Champions

As part of the newly developed five-year Strategic Plan, the Libertyville School District 70 Board of Education reviewed and looked at options for its provider of before and after school programs, as well as an extended-day kindergarten program. With a goal of providing the community with the best program available with established curriculum, Champions Extended Learning, a division of Knowledge Learning Corp., was unanimously selected. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) is offered to share further information regarding the program development.

What is the reason for hiring a new provider for before school, after school and extended-day kindergarten programming? At the heart of the new Strategic Plan is the number one goal of “Foster the culture of continuous improvement.” With that in mind, District 70 Supt. Dr. Guy Schumacher and the Board of Education reviewed and researched area vendors offering before, after and extended-day programs. In the process, Champions quickly rose to the top of the list as a program with detailed curricular programming that is working to expand offerings at all school sites. In time, the program could be offered to staff and local community families with child care options for children as young as 6-weeks-old. The Board of Education is working toward a formal contract for services with Champions, a national company with more than 30 years of experience dedicated to a curriculum with a mixture of academics, arts, and recreation. For more information, check out the Champions website at <http://www.discoverchampions.com>

When will the program be instituted?

Champions will begin the first day of school on Aug. 22 for the 2012-13 school year. It is expected to be housed at all D70 elementary schools. An Open House will be held from 3-7 p.m. on Aug. 15 at Butterfield School, 1441 W. Lake St., Libertyville. Champion staff members will attend the Open House to answer questions, and meet with parents and children who can check out the setup of a model site. Champions staff also will be available at Back To School picnics, BBQs and welcome back events should parents have additional questions.

Enrollment is available online and during the Open House.
The program is anticipated to end on June 3, 2013 or the last day of school.

What will be the hours of school?

Hours will be as follows: before school will be offered from 6:30 a.m. to 8:15 a.m., with after school running from 2:15 p.m. to 6 p.m. The enrichment kindergartner sessions run throughout the day at Butterfield School.

Champions will be open until 6 p.m. on D70's early release days and will be available for the full day on non-school days such as Teacher Institute days.

Where can I register for the program?

You may register for the program at any time by going online at <http://www.discoverchampions.com/>. Look for "Pricing & Locations" and then search for "Extended Learning 2012-13" under Illinois. A list of locations will appear on the bottom of that page. You may enroll at Adler Park School, Butterfield School, Copeland Manor School or Rockland School if you want to attend a Champions program in the Libertyville area. While we are continually assured there is room for all our students, if you are "**wait-listed,**" please call Robin Eisenstot directly at 1-847-229-1258 for clarification.

Parents registering after school starts on Aug. 22 can expect a delay of two days before entering the program.

What is the curriculum that will be offered?

Champions offers a blend of academics, the arts and recreation to children. Champions core curriculum is segmented into five exciting, mind-expanding, hands-on activity areas. Each area is infused with the teaching of essential life skills such as teamwork, problem solving, creativity, leadership, literacy, character development and fitness. Standard format has staff working with students on homework, brainteasers, and puzzles, working with music, dance, drawing and painting, as well as physical activities, scientific exploration and providing a healthy snack.

Champions also offers student reading and vocabulary building projects and a book club, teaches children the value of a healthy lifestyle with good nutrition and physical exercise, and involves children in community activities, family participation and teaches healthy conflict resolution techniques.

How does the extended-day program work?

The extended-day program offers a program to either morning or afternoon kindergartners seeking more structured time by either spending mornings or afternoons with Champions. The program will continue to be offered at Butterfield School in support of children at all school sites. Busing will be made available by D70 for the extended day kindergarten option.

What will the costs be?

The weekly costs are listed online at

http://www.discoverchampions.com/main/do/Location_Detail/id/2721

Registration Fee: \$65 a student or \$105 a family.

Discounts: 10 percent for multiple children enrolled placed on second child; 10 percent for District 70 employee child/children.

Before School: 6:30 to 8:15 a.m., Part Time (1-2 Days) is \$15 a week; Full Time (3-5 Days) is \$37 a week.

After School: 2:15 to 6 p.m., Part Time (1-2 Days) is \$36.25 a week; Full Time (3-5 Days) is \$87.50 a week.

Kindergarten: Half Day Morning from 8:15 to 12:15 p.m. Part Time (1-2 Days) is \$35 a week; Full Time (3-5 Days) is \$82.50 a week. Half Day Afternoon from 11 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Part Time (1-2 Days) is \$35 a week; Full Time (3-5 Days) is \$82.50 a week.

Drop-in fee is \$20 a session.

[A combination of part time \(1-2 days\) rates with a drop-in fee rate for a day or two maybe cheaper than full time \(3-5 days\) rates.](#)

Early release will be an additional \$5.

Non-school, Teacher Institute, full day will be an additional \$20 a day.

The company is investing between \$10,000 to \$15,000 at the beginning for start up fees.

Tell me about the staff.

Champions' philosophy assures it will hire "skilled education professionals" who are "local" and "vested in the communities they serve."

Champions has interviewed candidates and can assure parents and children they will see some familiar faces on the staff.

Will food service be offered for extended day kindergartners?

Lunch will be offered for purchase or students may bring an approved, peanut-free lunch from home. Milk will be offered for purchase.

How do I find out more information?

Check back on the District 70 website this summer as we post updates while we work out the final details with Champions. Also, please check out Champions on its website at <http://www.discoverchampions.com>.

For more information, contact: Robin Eisenstot, Champions Area Manager, at 1-847-229-1258 or at reisenstot@klcorp.com. It is our hope that these questions and answers provide further insight into this aspect of the new Champions program and a response to constituents, both community and staff, who value the development of such programming. As the Champions Education and Operations Team continues to meet and more of the program is solidified, this FAQ will be updated.

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