



Full Day Kindergarten Program FAQs

When was the full-day kindergarten program for all instituted?

Based on Board of Education approval, the full-day kindergarten program began in all elementary schools August 2015. Although there are textbook rental and technology fees for all kindergarten students, there is no additional fee assessed for full-day program participation.

What are the hours of kindergarten?

Hours 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 all kindergarten students.

Will a half-day program still be a choice?

While some families may recognize a commitment toward half-day programming, the option for a standard half-day session is available Monday-Friday. Busing, however, is not available for half-day programming. Full-day and half-day students will be enrolled in the same classrooms, so that students leaving or arriving mid-day will not greatly affect class demographics, culture and composition. Principals work closely with families to ensure academic 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 is offered to full-day kindergarten students through the District 70 transportation provider and matches standard first through fifth grade routes and bus stops currently established.

Will food service be offered?

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

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 continued. Structural forecasts to address all building needs is ongoing.

What was 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 website address: www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/

Kindergarten Common Core mathematics standards can be accessed via the following website address: www.corestandards.org/Math/

In addition, there continued to be requests to expand the offering for children who attended the District 70 half-day 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 offered a full-day option, the districts surrounding Libertyville were viewed as those with one-school systems (Kdg-8th grade housed on one district site) or grade-based centers (schools of Kdg-2nd grade configuration) that allowed for easy placement of additional personnel, staffing and classroom allocations. Creating a program that offered full-day kindergarten at all four school 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 was approved by the Board of Education to establish a full-day kindergarten option for all students at the onset of the 2015-2016 school year.

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.