

FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN

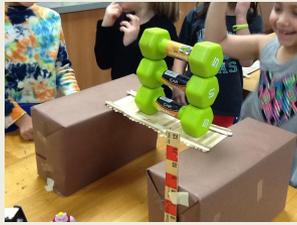
Directions for Consideration

Dr. Richard Noonan, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Donna Felezzola, Business Administrator
Annie Corley-Hand, Principal
Michele Gardner, Director of Special Services

Why discuss full-day kindergarten now?

- The education base case for full-day kindergarten.
- Movement toward full-day kindergarten in the state and area.
- Objectives for tonight:
 - Present the education base case.
 - Lay-out when and how the district can transition to full-day kindergarten.
 - In broad terms, describe what universal full-day kindergarten would require.
 - In broad terms, describe what tuition paying full-day kindergarten would require.

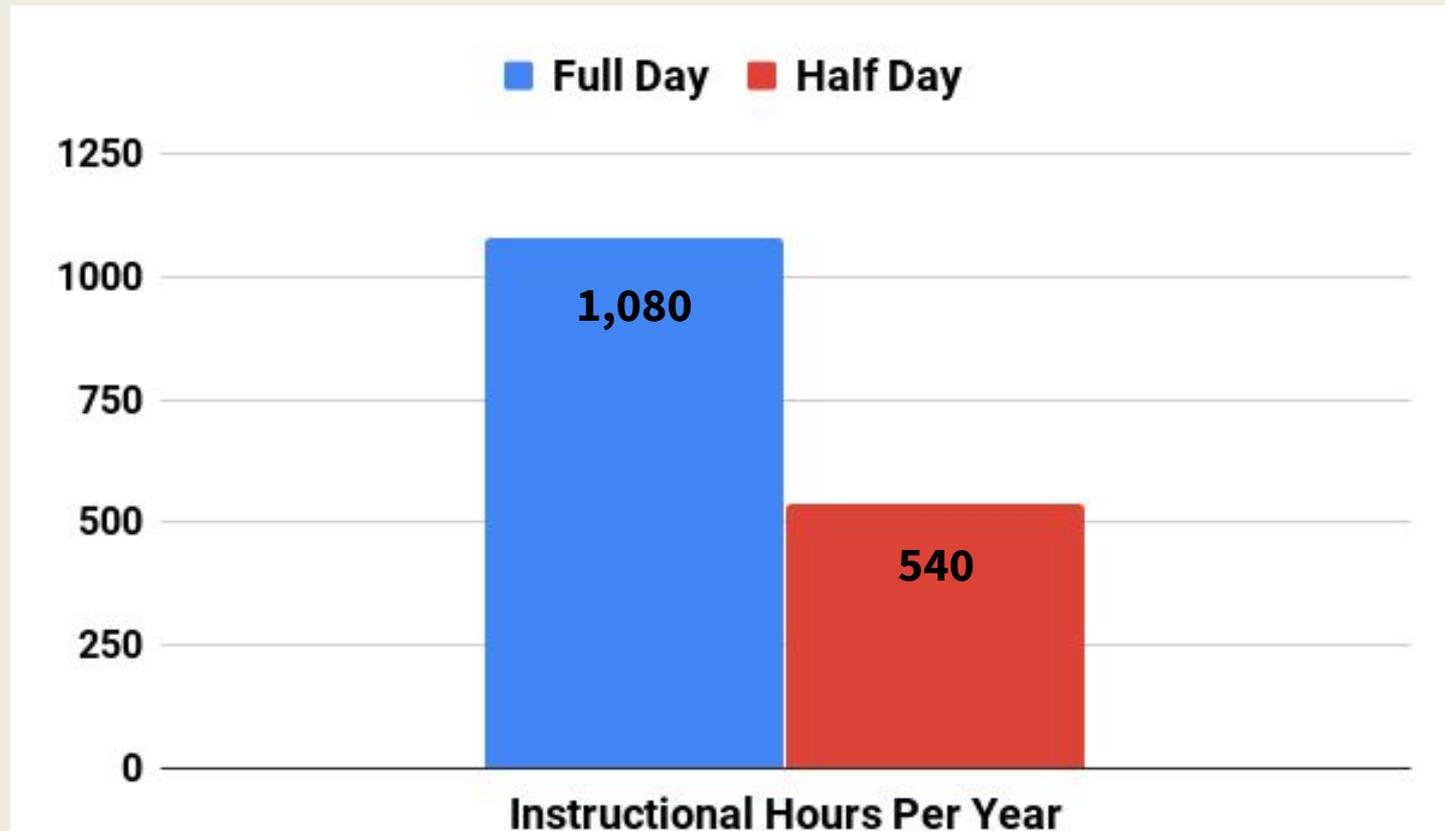
The Case for Full-Day Kindergarten



“If kindergarten once was a cozy setting for cookies and naps, today we should know it as a curriculum-rich launching pad. There still may be cookies, but the bigger prize is giving all of our kids a clear shot at success.”

NJ Student Learning Standards

In order to master the NJ Learning Standards, some children receive:



8:45 - 9:00 Arrival

9:00 - 10:45

Whole Group and
Center-based Instruction

- Math Instruction
- Literacy
- Writer's Workshop
- Science/Social Studies
- Clean-up/Snack

10:45 - 11:25 Related Arts
or WIN Period

11:25 - 11:45 Sharing
Review
Dismissal

8:45 - 9:00 Arrival

9:00 - 9:15 Morning Meeting

9:15 - 9:35 Shared Reading

Whole Group

9:35 - 10:35 Choice Time

Ongoing Investigations

Project Work

Literacy Instruction

Guided Reading

10:35 - 10:55 Snack, Cleanup,
Sharing

10:55 - 11:55 Math Explorations

11:55 - 12:45 Lunch/Recess

12:45 - 1:45 Independent Reading

Read Aloud

Ongoing Investigations

Social Studies/Science

Writer's Workshop

1:45 - 2:10 Related Arts

2:10 - 2:50 Sharing

2:50 - 3:10 Review

Dismissal

Benefits of Full-Day Kindergarten

- Opportunities to address standards in a meaningful and developmentally appropriate manner.
 - Integration of content areas through investigations and sustained projects.
 - Uninterrupted Instructional Block.
- More intentional and deliberate interactions with students.
- Less class time lost due to delayed openings or early dismissal.
- Time to play, socialize, collaborate, and practice self-regulatory skills.

The Effects of Full-Day K

The daily addition of three hours of instruction in kindergarten amounts to another half-year of instruction, which allows for broader and deeper curriculum coverage, a variety of instructional groupings, and diagnosis and intervention of learning challenges (Davies & Cress, 2010; Elicker & Mathur, 1997). Students who receive this additional dosage of kindergarten instruction show better literacy outcomes than their half-day peers (Raskin et al., 2011; Zvoch et al., 2008).

Another reasonable explanation for the lack of differences between full-day and half-day kindergarten students by third grade is that schools intentionally intervene with struggling students. Over time, students who were lower performing and who attended half-day kindergarten may have received enough remediation to be on track by third grade (Davies & Cress, 2010).

NOTE: Longitudinal studies of the benefits of FDK after 3rd Grade have not been identified.

TESTIMONIAL

Scott Bortnick, Principal
Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District

Our kindergarten philosophy has been and continues to be that play is the work of early childhood and as a result we have focused our efforts in Kindergarten to develop purposeful play and center activities that are based on widely held expectations for children in kindergarten.

Increased time with the children has resulted in:

- additional opportunities to focus on social-emotional learning.
- opportunities to explore concepts in a deeper way.
- more project based learning opportunities.

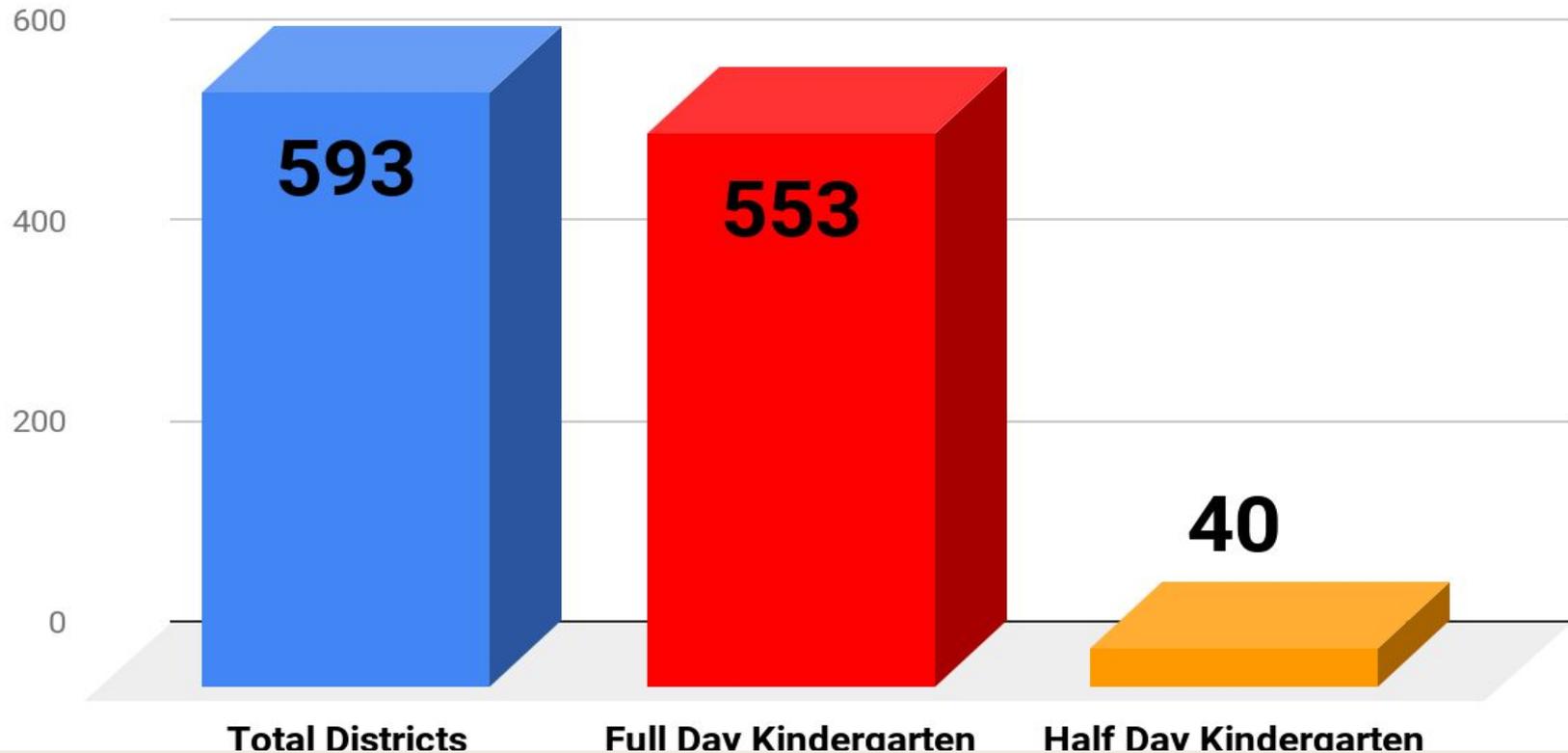
Teacher Perspective

“The one benefit that I find very beneficial is the connection I am able to make with my students. FDK allows me time to get to know my students socially and academically. I am able to sit and interact with them through play where I get to know them on a more personal level through the questions asked and the stories shared.”

- More meaningful and frequent conferencing.
- More opportunities to individualize their instruction.
- Expanded time for remediation and enrichment.

What are other districts doing?

Kindergarten in New Jersey



94% of New Jersey School Districts offer a Full-day Kindergarten Program, many of which are universal.

Options for Implementation

Option A - Pilot Program

- Offer two full classes of 20 students each
- Acceptance would be based on a lottery
- Tuition program paid by the family
- Identify where the program would be offered utilizing current classroom spaces
- The costs would include classroom upgrades, personnel, supplies
- The program costs would be part of the 2020/2021 budget
- Classes would begin September 2020

Options for Implementation

Option B - Universal Full-Day Kindergarten

- All kindergarten eligible students would be enrolled
- Project 8 kindergarten classes requiring 5 additional kindergarten teachers, related personnel and building upgrades
- Decisions would have to be made regarding how to incorporate 5 classrooms - make renovations to current spaces, restructure grade levels
- The costs would be borne by the taxpayers and incorporated into the 2020/2021 budget for implementation in the 2021/2022 school year

QUESTIONS?