



# CDSD FULL DAY Kindergarten Program FAQ Sheet

FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM	
<b>1.</b>	<p>Why does the school district believe it needs full-day Kindergarten?</p> <p>A full-day program gives our early learners the time they need to master essential literacy and math concepts that form the foundation for their future academic success. Currently, the half-day kindergarten program is scheduled for less than three hours, which is even shorter than many preschool sessions. Students do best when learning is active, thoughtful, and not rushed. More than 80% of schools nationwide offer full-day kindergarten programs, where students have the time to learn more thoroughly and deeply instead of hurrying through key concepts. We believe a full-day program will provide our youngest students with the start they need to be successful throughout their school careers.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p>What are the hours of full-day Kindergarten?</p> <p>The hours for kindergarten have not been finalized. Transportation will play a large role in determining the times.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p>Why will some Kindergarten students remain in elementary schools, but others will move to Kindergarten Academies?</p> <p>Linglestown, West Hanover and Middle Paxton have classroom space in their respective buildings to house a full-day kindergarten program. All of our other elementary school buildings are at capacity and do not have the room to offer a full-day program.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p>How will my child benefit from full-day Kindergarten?</p> <p>Children in the full-day kindergarten program will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build early reading and writing skills</li> <li>• Develop an understanding of math concepts and problem-solving</li> <li>• Experience opportunities in science, social studies, art, music, physical education, technology, and purposeful play</li> <li>• Develop effective school habits and social skills</li> </ul> <p>The goal is for students to have a kindergarten experience that will foster a lifelong love of learning and prepare them for the rest of their elementary years.</p>

5.	Have you looked at research that shows a big benefit to full-day Kindergarten?
	<p>The district has looked at extensive research on full-day kindergarten.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students in full-day classes show greater reading and mathematics achievement gains than those in half-day classes. Research shows that those gains typically stay with them through later grades.</li> <li>• Students in full-day classes tend to do better with the transition to first grade. They show significant gains in school social skills, such as understanding appropriate behavior and interacting with other children.</li> <li>• Teachers can address students’ learning challenges early, helping to get and keep them on track. The additional time allows for more individualized instruction to meet every learner’s specific needs and challenges them at their level.</li> <li>• Families and communities benefit from the consistency and support that full-day programs provide.</li> </ul>
6.	Where will my child attend school? Will they remain at their homeschool or attend Kindergarten at one of the proposed CDSK Kindergarten Academies?
	<p><b>Kindergarten will remain in the following schools:</b></p> <p>Linglestown Elementary School  West Hanover Elementary School  Middle Paxton Elementary School</p> <p><b>Kindergarten Academies will include the following schools:</b></p> <p>1240 Mountain Road – Paxtonia Elementary  4251 Crums Mill Road – Mountain View Elementary and North Side Elementary  600 Rutherford Road – Paxtang Elementary, South Side Elementary, E.H. Phillips Elementary  4031 Executive Park Drive – Chambers Hill Elementary, Lawnton Elementary, Rutherford Elementary,  Tri-Community Elementary</p>
7.	Will you offer half-day Kindergarten or is full-day the only option?
	We will provide a full-day kindergarten experience for all students. We will not offer a half-day option.
8.	Will you provide transportation for my student?
	Students who are not identified as walkers will be provided district transportation.
9.	Can I drive my child to school?
	Yes. All kindergarten locations will have a parent drop-off/pick-up location. Procedures for this process will be provided by the building administrator prior to the start of school.
10.	Will breakfast and lunch be served?
	Yes. All schools in the Central Dauphin School District have been designated as a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) site. Students will be eligible to receive a complete breakfast and lunch daily at no cost or charge to the student.
11.	Is there a possibility for the district to provide before and after-school childcare?
	The district will work collaboratively with daycare providers in the area to provide before and after-school care for elementary students.

**FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN AND ASSOCIATED COSTS**

<b>1.</b>	What is the anticipated cost of implementing full-day Kindergarten?
	The cost of purchasing and renovating buildings will be roughly \$36 million. There will be an additional cost of approximately \$1 million for furniture and materials for the new classrooms. This will be a one-time cost to get the program up and running. The ongoing cost for staff will be approximately \$5 to \$6 million per year.
<b>2.</b>	Does the cost include staffing, materials, and supply needs?
	Yes. All of those costs are included.
<b>3.</b>	How is the district planning to pay for the program?
	The costs to purchase buildings and supplies is approximately \$36 million and will be financed through a bond.
<b>4.</b>	Can you explain a bond issuance?
	Buying a bond means lending money to the issuer, which in this case, means the Central Dauphin School District. The bond has a predetermined maturity date and a specified interest rate. The issuer commits to repaying the principal, which is the original loan amount, on the maturity date. In addition, during the time up to maturity, the issuer pays the investor interest at prescheduled intervals.
<b>5.</b>	Is there a possibility to lease space in lieu of purchasing buildings?
	No locations we reviewed met the strategic needs of the district. All the locations we recommend purchasing are in close proximity of their feeder elementary schools.
<b>6.</b>	Will there be a tax increase for district residents? If so, what is the anticipated increase and is it over a set period of time?
	There has not been a tax increase in three years. The District's millage remains the lowest in the county. There will likely be a tax increase to fund full-day kindergarten, air conditioning installation in six elementary schools, costs associated with building maintenance and increased staffing needs. This year's Act 1 limit is 6.6%. The District is not seeking exemptions to go beyond the Act 1 percentage. Any increase will be part of a public discussion to the Board and Finance Committee meetings. Please refer to the PFM table posted on the web site to view estimates of the revenue generated by a tax increase.
<b>7.</b>	Is there a possibility to shift students (redistrict) to allow Kindergarten classrooms to remain at their home school?
	Because the district is almost at capacity at all our schools, redistricting will not be an option.
<b>8.</b>	How will the district transition from Half-Day kindergarten to Full-Day Kindergarten before the start of the new school year? Will that be enough time to complete this project?
	The district wants to start the program at the beginning of the 2026-27 school year. This will give us plenty of time for the project to be completed and staff all kindergarten classrooms.

**KINDERGARTEN STAFFING CENTER**

**1.** Will each Kindergarten Academy have a building principal?

Each site will have an assigned administrator.

**AUTISTIC SUPPORT STAFF**

**1.** Will Autistic Support teachers remain in their current buildings?

It will not be possible for all Autistic Support teachers to remain in their current buildings. Some classrooms will move due to enrollment changes created by the return of students to Autistic Support Classrooms in most neighborhood schools. The administration will work with CDEA to develop a plan to move affected staff to new locations.

**2.** Will Autistic Support students remain in their current schools or be placed into their neighborhood schools?

Students who are in grades K-2 will return to their neighborhood school if an Autistic Support Classroom is available. For students attending schools without an Autistic Support Classroom, they will attend a designated school located near their neighborhood school.

**CREATIVE ARTS**

**1.** What will the creative arts program look like for Kindergarten students?

The district will have creative arts teachers who will be shared among all the Kindergarten Academies.

**CSDS SPECIALISTS**

**1.** What staff will be located in the Kindergarten Academies and what services will they provide to students?

Students who are eligible for special education and related services through an Individualized Education Program will have access to the same services available in all elementary schools throughout the district. This includes learning support services, speech-language therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, counseling services, and/or specialized transportation.