

# Full Day Kindergarten



# Instructional Considerations

- **Wide range of ability levels with incoming kindergarteners:**
  - Ready to read to learning letters and sounds
  - Know numbers and 1:1 correspondence to learning to identify numbers
  - Current day is 2.75 hours
  
- **Full day is 6.5 hours - more than double the time which will provide opportunities for:**
  - Kindergarten creates a solid basis for future academic success (learning how to be a learner)
  - Deep dive into content
  - Slower pace
  - Reteaching and enrichment
  - Exposure to a wider range of subjects



# Other Important Considerations:

- Parental Needs
- Improvement with student attendance
- Increased school stamina
- Full day programs outside of OJR do not guarantee adequate preparedness for OJR academic rigor in 1st grade.



# Connection to OJRSD Mental Health Strategic Plan

- Skills that the plan identifies as important for our students to develop:
  - Self-awareness
  - Self-management
  - Relationship skills
  - Responsible decision making

(CASEL, 2023)
- Increased time in Kindergarten provides increased opportunities to teach, develop, and practice these skills with our youngest learners.



# Special Education Interventions

## Preschool Special Education Students

- Increase across the county in students accessing supports age 3 through 6 years old.
- Increase in OJR numbers entering Kindergarten:
  - 21-22 SY - 49 students
  - 22-23 SY - 57 students
  - 23-24 SY - 65 students
  - 24-25 SY - 72 students

## School-Age Special Education Supports

- Full-day K provides greater flexibility to meet student needs.
- Increased reading and math skills moving into first grade.



# Narrowing the Educational Gap

## Increase of at risk students

- A Full-day program provides more opportunities for academic content and a structured environment
- Enables staff to support emotional and social development to build peer connections.

## MTSS framework

- More opportunities to identify and intervene early in all tiers, including academics and behavior
- Students in Half Day Kindergarten were significantly more likely than students in Full Day Kindergarten to be in the below average group in the areas of reading, vocabulary, and self-regulation. Results for self-regulation showed that students in Half Day Kindergarten were three times more likely to fall into the below average group (Pelletier, 2020)



# Comparison of Local Districts

## Montgomery County:

- 18 out of 21 districts currently have full day kindergarten
- One additional district is adding full day kindergarten in 2024

## Chester County:

- 8 out of 12 districts currently have full day kindergarten
- Unionville-Chadds Ford SD - Adding full day kindergarten in 2025
- Downingtown SD - 4 out of 10 schools currently have full day kindergarten and qualifying families can transport students to those schools.



# School Capacity Considerations

- Completed elementary school building classroom review
- Based on enrollment projections, all schools can support Full Day Kindergarten with the following adjustments:
  - NC: Conversion of Instructional Common Areas to 4 classrooms
  - FC: Move 2 Special Education Autistic Support classrooms to NC; add a student restroom in an existing classroom. Redistrict 50-100 students to EC
  - EV: Redistrict 40-80 students to EC
  - WV: Add a student restroom to an existing classroom



# Financial Considerations

- Ongoing Annual Operating Costs - additional staff (Teachers net 4.0, and paraprofessionals net 3.6 FTE) - \$475,000 (year 1 cost)
  - Salaries - \$329,500
  - Benefits - \$145,500
- One-time Capital Costs and Initial Curriculum Materials Cost - technology, curriculum materials, furniture, building renovations - \$265,000
- Building Renovations \$150,000
- Classroom Furniture \$ 50,000
- Curriculum Materials \$ 40,000
- Technology \$ 25,000



# Recommendations

- Move to Full Day Kindergarten Program beginning Fall 2025
- Complete building renovations in summer 2024
- Complete redistricting plan in Fall 2024
- Communicate redistricting plan to Community by January 2025
- Hire kindergarten teaching staff and convert KLAMS positions in summer 2025
- Purchase technology (laptops and projectors) and curriculum materials in summer 2025



# Additional Questions

What are the limitations/challenges with the current program?

Insufficient time for instruction

Mid day transportation challenges for parents

Misalignment with Pre K Counts and some other preschool programs

Cost of tuition for full day programs at charter schools

Benefits from the pilot Full Day program

Aligns with the scheduling needs of families

Increased time for academic, social, and soft skills

Increased attendance rate

Increased school stamina for first grade

Better fine motor skills and more fluent writing skills for grade 1

Time for quality relationships among students and teachers



# Potential Schedule

A schedule would be developed by the administration and Kindergarten teachers. A Sample Full Day Kindergarten schedule includes academic classes, time to develop school and social skills, special areas, lunch, and recess.

Morning	Afternoon
Morning meeting - journal, pledge, calendar, songs, finger plays, message and focus for day	Lunch Recess/Sensorimotor activities/physical activities Refocus and afternoon meeting
ELA block - reading, word work, phonemic awareness, phonics, guided reading groups	Science or social studies lesson Science kits or Social Studies Big Books
Sensorimotor activities/physical activities	ELA and fine motor skills - handwriting and writing workshop
Math lesson and AM Tier time	Special areas and PM Tier time End of day meeting and songs



# Budget Considerations

## 2024-2025

Construction at NC and additional restrooms for FC and WV

Special education professional development and increase of teaching and paraprofessional staff

## 2025-2026

Teaching and paraprofessional staff increases

Instructional materials, classroom furniture, cafeteria furniture

Any remaining construction project costs

Cost of mid day transportation for a half day program: \$401,137

FDK Annual, Year 1: \$475,000

One time capital and initial costs: \$265,000

