

Executive Summary

April 3, 2014

Program Objective: *Free Full Day Kindergarten*

Overview: *The district does not currently have free full day kindergarten in all schools. The \$600,000 would support the addition of 13 more full day kindergarten sections.*

Project Description: *Expand free full day kindergarten to 13 more sections*

Call to Action Objective:

The proposal aligns with BOE Ends 1 and Ends 2 which ensures high quality learning experiences are provided to increase student achievement for all students to meet the Board Goals focusing on Reading, Math, Writing, and Remediation Rates.

Specifically:

Ends 1: Every student will master the Colorado Content Standards at grade level.

- The percentage of proficient/advanced third grade students in reading on TCAP will increase from 80% to 85% by August of 2015.*
- The percentage of proficient/advanced fourth grade students in math on TCAP will increase from 77% to 80% by August 2015.*

Ends 2: Every student will achieve one year's growth or more as needed to 'catch up' in every year of school and be ready for the next level.

- The percentage of third graders scoring in the unsatisfactory category on third grade reading TCAP will decrease by 1 percentage point each year in 2014 and 2015.*
- The percentage of ALP students who have growth measures over 50 will increase:
In writing from 54 to 56 In math from 60 to 62 In reading from 57 to 59*

Why does it matter? Free full-day Kindergarten provides our at-risk students access to additional instructional time in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. This additional instructional time delivers benefits to our students throughout their educational career, including increased academic achievement and improved social-emotional skills. This additional instructional time ensures a greater chance for our students to be successful academically, leading to attainment of our Ends Goals on student achievement detailed above.

- “By the time most children start school, they will have been exposed to 5 million words and should know about 13,000 of them...But that doesn’t often happen in low-income homes...by age 3, the children of professional parents were adding words to their vocabulary at about twice the rate of children in welfare families.” (*Teaching with Poverty in Mind* by Eric Jensen 2009 pg. 35)

What is the difference? The difference in time is 205 minutes: students in half day programs receive a minimum of 150 minutes. Students in full day programs receive a minimum of 355 minutes. The difference in time for kids in full day vs. half day is over 35,000 minutes in a typical school year, or about 583 hours of school.

What are the benefits?

Full day Kindergarten will accelerate student learning so that our students have a greater chance of being advanced/proficient by 3rd grade. Research cited below supports the benefits of full-day kindergarten:

- According to the Center for Public Education, full-day kindergarten provides low-income students with academic gains that lead to reduction in the number of students being retained. Children who attended a full-day program tend to score higher on skills tests in later grades than those who attended half-day programs.
<http://everydaylife.globalpost.com/full-day-kindergarten-its-positive-effects-poverty-6961.html>
- Quality kindergarten and elementary education is about the exposure to best instructional practices for all students which will positively impact student achievement. “Children who learn more and have more experienced teachers in kindergarten have better outcomes as adults, including higher earnings, as well as increased college attendance, homeownership rates and retirement savings.”
<http://www.aecf.org/~media/Pubs/Initiatives/KIDS%20COUNT/F/FirstEightYears/AECFTheFirstEightYears2013.pdf>
- A nationwide analysis of kindergarteners who began at the same achievement level found that students who attended full-day programs outperformed half-day students in both math and reading

(Votruba-Drzal, Li-Grining and Maldonado-Carreno 2008).

<http://radnortsd.schoolwires.com/cms/lib/PA01000218/Centricity/Domain/797/Full%20versus%20half%20day%20kindergarten.pdf>

- "In Nevada, evaluations of the effect of full-day kindergarten on student academic achievement have shown positive results. A first-year study by the Clark County School District (CCSD) assessed the effects of participating in full-day and half-day kindergarten on students' literacy development. The December 2005 report, titled Status Report on Year 1: Full/Extended-Day Kindergarten Study (FEDS), found that lower socioeconomic students enrolled in full-day kindergarten demonstrated greater rates of literacy growth over the course of the year than closely matched half-day students."
<http://leg.state.nv.us/Division/Research/Publications/ResearchBriefs/FullDayKindergarten.pdf>

Time Sensitivity: High Importance - Due to the expansion of classrooms, staff will need to be hired prior to the 2014-15 school year.

Timeline: 2014 - 2015 School Year

Recommendation: The Board approve funds for 13 additional sections of free full day kindergarten.