



Building Bridges to the Future

Full-Day Kindergarten Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Why is Riverview making this transition to full-day kindergarten?

We are making this transition to full-day kindergarten because the research and best practice throughout the country demonstrates that full-day kindergarten has a positive effect on children's future success in school.

2. Is my child ready for kindergarten?

The short answer is "yes." Children are in different places in terms of academic, social, emotional, and physical development upon entry into kindergarten. Our teachers and other educational professionals have been trained to best meet the needs of all children within the context of the classroom.

3. What does a typical day in full-day kindergarten look like?

The typical day in kindergarten includes teaching and learning in the major content areas, specialist time which could include music, library, or physical education, depending on the day. Recess and lunch time are also included within the typical school day.

4. How will my child's teacher be determined?

Each student's placement is determined by a school team that looks at a wide variety of factors, including academic and social needs and balances those needs amongst the various teachers.

5. Is there a half-day program?

Based on the state's requirement to move to all day kindergarten for all students, our model is aligned to Washington's vision and the vision of many other states. If a family feels strongly that a half-day program will be more appropriate, there is an option to attend kindergarten for the first half of the day and be dismissed at lunch time. The district will not be providing transportation for the few families that pursue this option, so parents/guardians will need to pick up their students from school on a daily basis. In addition, children that are enrolled for only half of the school day will be missing key curricular time as subject area content is spread throughout the day.

6. What is the process for transition into kindergarten?

The process begins with registration through each school's registration process. Students are assessed in late August or early September to help staff understand academic abilities and social skills. Students are then placed in a teacher's classroom based on various factors, including classroom balance.

7. What does the curriculum look like in kindergarten?

The curriculum is based in centers and at first is "play-based," moving more and more to academic skill building in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies as the year progresses. In Riverview, computer and technology skills are integrated into the content areas as well. This is in addition to social skill building, visual art, and specialist time in music, library, and physical education.

8. How will my kindergartener interact with the rest of the school during the school day?

Schools will provide specific schedules for parents that include, recess, lunches, and rotations into music, physical education and library time.

9. Where is the district in the planning process?

Implementation of Full-Day Kindergarten has been part of the district's strategic plan for over two years. Comprehensive research has been completed, including attending seminars and consulting with other school districts that have implemented Full-Day Kindergarten. We also implemented a teacher training process. We have taken advantage of "lessons learned" throughout the state to design the best program possible for our students.

10. Thanks for this information session. What are the next steps in the registration process?

The next step is to complete a registration packet and submit it to your local elementary school's main office.