Full Day Kindergarten
2013-2014 School Year
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Full Day Kindergarten

“Every single child deserves to have a high-quality education that will prepare them to succeed in life. That can’t happen if they are behind their peers across the nation when they enter first grade. Guaranteeing full-day kindergarten for the first time gives every student a full education from the very start. From early learning on up through college, we are making smart, critical investments that support our students’ bright futures.”

-Mayor Rahm Emanuel

“This opportunity cannot be reserved just for some. This is an entitlement for all our children, a full-day kindergarten program isn’t just a line item in our budget. It’s an investment in our children and in our city’s future. It is an investment in the next generation. It is a priority we are committed to preserving.”

-CEO, Barbara Byrd-Bennett

"Full day kindergarten has had a positive impact on student readiness and language acquisition. I visited a school today and I observed students engaged in meaningful, developmentally appropriate, writing where they can begin to express themselves on paper—having the full day experience has given us the time to help make this happen."

-School Chief, Network 8, Luis Soria

“City wide, all day kindergarten levels the playing field just as the longer school day and longer school year has. If we want our kids to compete academically with their peers across the spectrum, we certainly have to provide them with the same opportunities. All day kindergarten throughout the city finally brings our school district into the 21st century.”

-Principal, Burroughs Elementary School, Donald Richard Morris

Overview

Research shows that children in full-day kindergarten classes show greater reading and mathematics gains than those in half-day classes and that full-day kindergarten can produce long-term educational gains, especially for children who are economically disadvantaged. Moreover, full-day kindergarten offers social, emotional and intellectual benefits in a setting that allows kindergarteners to learn and explore activities in depth and in a developmentally appropriate way.

As such, beginning in the 2013-2014 school year, under the direction of Mayor Rahm Emanuel and CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett, Chicago Public Schools offered Full Day Kindergarten to all kindergarten students for the first time in its history. Prior to this change, student access to full day kindergarten was dependent upon which school they attended – leaving too many children behind. The introduction of Full Day Kindergarten for all students is part of the district’s Next Generation CPS
Full Day Kindergarten
2013-2014 School Year

Action Plan. The CPS Action plan strategically focuses on early education as a way in which to ensure children are fully ready to learn in the 1st grade.

In 2012, the Mayor launched Chicago: Ready to Learn!, an initiative aimed at improving the quality of early childhood programs citywide, increasing access for families that need these programs the most, and bolstering transparency and accountability across the early learning systems. Since then, opportunities have expanded and are distributed more equitably across neighborhoods. In addition, programs are now held to a uniform set of high expectations for instruction and community engagement. All providers and schools were trained on these expectations and are supported with tools for continuous improvement.

For the 2013-14 school year, CPS established a requirement that full-day kindergarten be offered at all elementary schools to help all our students enter 1st grade truly ready to learn.

In August 2013, Mayor Rahm Emanuel, announced his plan to mandate a full day of kindergarten for CPS students.

To accomplish this objective, the district earmarked $15 million to ensure a full school day for kindergarteners. This funding was mostly generated from cuts to central office staff. In addition, CPS devoted an additional $15.4 million in capital money to upgrade or add space for kindergarten classrooms. Overall, CPS spent approximately $119 million on kindergarten in the 13-14 school year.

The Full Day Kindergarten plan increased classroom time for approximately 3,000-4,000 more children for a total of almost 30,000 in more than 400 schools.

Specifically, CPS is proud of the Full Day Kindergarten initiative that extends beyond the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) requirement that requires only half day for kindergarten children. Only ten states and the District of Columbia have legislated a full day of publicly funded kindergarten. CPS is now allotting the same amount of money per kindergarten student as first through third-graders, according to the district’s student-based budgeting process.

Furthermore, in an effort to support the first year of the district-wide Full Day Kindergarten implementation, the district offered:

- On-line resources for teachers
- Early childhood education community stakeholder engagement
- On-going registration for parents of kindergarteners
- Professional development for teachers and administrators from colleges, universities and experts in the field of early childhood education
The data in Table 1 shows the increase in all children across the district who were provided with a Full Day Kindergarten experience over time.

**Table 1: Number of Students: Full Day/Half-Day/4-Hour Programs by Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Full-Day</th>
<th>Half-Day</th>
<th>4-Hour</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SY 11-12</td>
<td>24324*</td>
<td>3158</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>29432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SY 12-13</td>
<td>26872*</td>
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<td>2818</td>
<td>30729</td>
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<tr>
<td>SY 13-14</td>
<td>30091*</td>
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</table>

*Students who do not attend a CPS school, but receive specialized services only are not included.

The data in Table 2 also shows the increase in the number of all classrooms across the district that went to Full Day Kindergarten in the 2013-14 school year.

**Table 2: Number of Classrooms: Full Day/Half-Day/4-Hour Programs by Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Year</th>
<th>Full-Day</th>
<th>Half-Day</th>
<th>4-Hour</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
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<td>0</td>
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