

# Some Frequently Asked Questions About Full Day Kindergarten

## 1. What will the schedule look like for full-day kindergarten?

- The children will attend school 5 days a week, and follow the regular school calendar.
- Full time Kindergarten aides will be in each classroom.
- There will be a quiet time during the day, probably after lunch, when children will be able to use books, puzzles, or other quiet activities for 20-30 minutes.
- There will be two recesses, one after snack in the morning and one after lunch.
- Children will eat lunch in the cafeteria with children from other grades. Aides will be in the cafeteria to assist.

## 2. What about the school bus?

- The full-day kindergarten children will ride to and from school on the bus with the other elementary school children (Grades K-5.).

## 3. Is the half-day kindergarten curriculum different than full day kindergarten?

- No. The full-day kindergarten curriculum will be the same as half-day kindergarten curriculum.
- Full-day kindergarten offers more time for enrichment and themes. Children will have more time throughout the day to explore concepts.

## 4. What will the class size be?

- Marshfield's maximum full-day kindergarten class size will be based on the number of parents requesting full day kindergarten however the typical size is 20 students.
- The half-day kindergarten class sizes will vary from school to school, but should be comparable to full-day kindergarten.
- The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education views the kindergarten class size of 20 as ideal.

## 5. Is there a long-term commitment to having full-day kindergarten?

- Yes. MPSD is committed to sustaining the full-day kindergarten program.

## 6. Can my child enroll in another elementary school that has full-day kindergarten students?

- Yes. If there are no available FDK slots at your child's home school you may be offered a FDK slot at another elementary school. However, parents are responsible for transportation to and from school.

## 7. Is the registration procedure any different for families with more than one Kindergarten child?

- No.

**8. If a parent registers their child for full day kindergarten before others, does this improve a child's chances to be enrolled in full day kindergarten?**

- No.

**9. How is the full day kindergarten tuition used?**

- The full day kindergarten tuition will be deposited in a revolving account, and will be used only for full day kindergarten expenses.

**10. Does the full day kindergarten tuition also pay for a kindergarten student's lunch?**

- No. The cost of lunch is the parents' responsibility. A healthy snack and milk are provided as part of the tuition.

**11. Does the school district provide afterschool day care transportation?**

- No.

### **Kindergarten Policy in Massachusetts**

The mandatory school age for children in Massachusetts is six. Current Massachusetts regulations mandate that 425 hours of kindergarten be provided by all public school districts and be made available to all children. This translates to roughly 2.5 hours per day, however, there is some local variation in how kindergarten is offered from district to district in terms of hours per day and days per week. The state defines full-day kindergarten as a minimum of 850 hours per year.