

## **Full Day Kindergarten FAQ**

### **Why did the Cherry Hill Public Schools decide to change its kindergarten program from half day to full day starting in 2019-20?**

The Cherry Hill Community has expressed a strong desire for full day kindergarten for more than 20 years. In our latest community survey conducted during the 2017-2018 school year, the top-requested change/improvement from community members was to implement full day kindergarten. The Board of Education voted to make full day kindergarten a top priority in its goals for the 2018-2019 school year. In early 2018, it was announced that the district would move forward with implementing full day kindergarten, with a launch date of September 3, 2019 – the first day of school for 2019.

### **What went into the planning for making full day kindergarten a reality?**

The planning process for full day kindergarten was multifaceted, and included:

- Surveys of stakeholders
- A call for volunteers to apply to be on the Kindergarten Committee
- The formation of the Kindergarten Committee, which included parents of typically developing and special needs students, kindergarten teachers, and community members who had expertise in identified topics such as language acquisition and social emotional learning
- Visits to elementary schools with full day kindergarten already in place
- Consultation regarding research-supported best practices
- CHPS elementary building assessments to determine needs
- Study of CHPS kindergarten enrollment history and projections

### **Isn't a full day an awfully long time for kindergarten age children to be in school? Shouldn't they be playing?**

Our full day kindergarten curriculum is play-based, and allows more play time than our half day schedule did. It also allows more time for "Encore" classes such as music, art, and physical education. [You may see more details online about our full day kindergarten plan.](#)

### **How do I register my child for kindergarten?**

We strongly encourage you to make an appointment with our Registration Office by calling (856) 429-5600 extension 4432, 4436 or 4430, as summer is the busiest time of the year for registration. We cannot guarantee you will be seen without an appointment.

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**Why is there overcrowding in some schools, with the “overflow” kindergarten students placed in schools outside of their “neighborhood” schools?**

In any given year, enrollment projections cannot provide an absolute number of students who will enroll in our schools. Variables in enrollment happen. The District cannot predict with absolute certainty:

- How many families will move into or out of the District
- How many families will choose to home school their children or send their school-age children to private school

**If my child has to attend kindergarten in a school outside of my neighborhood school, will he or she attend first through fifth grade at my neighborhood school, or does she/he have to stay at the other school?**

When students are assigned to another school because the grade-level enrollment number of their home school is at capacity, those students are offered to attend their home school the following school year; they do not have to stay at the “assigned” school.

**Where can I find more information about CHPS kindergarten?**

For more information, you may contact CHPS Director of Curriculum Farrah Mahan at [fmahan@chclc.org](mailto:fmahan@chclc.org) or see our [presentation about full day kindergarten on the District web site](#).