



Informational Memo - Kindergarten Registration

TO: School Board
Superintendent Kocanda

FROM: Beth Martin

October 18, 2016

Background

On May 17, 2016 the School Board approved Extended Day Kindergarten, which will be implemented in the 2017-2018 school year. As a result, some modifications to the kindergarten registration process will be implemented. This memo is designed to provide a brief overview of the anticipated registration process that will occur this December.

Alignment with the District 36 Shared Vision

Extended Day Kindergarten aligns with the District's vision in the following manner:

- Expanding the instructional time with our youngest students allows for more opportunities for experiential learning both inside and outside of the classroom.
- Implementation of enrichment activities will promote opportunities to support and challenge all students in a variety of ways as they explore their environment.
- Continuation of our play-based model will promote individual growth at developmentally appropriate times.

Overview

The overall process of kindergarten registration will remain unchanged. However, some additions to the registration process are warranted as a means to gather information for enrollment purposes.

Current registration process:

- Advertisement of upcoming kindergarten registration in November, 2016

- December on site registration (targeted for December 2, 2016) within each elementary school
- Parents will register at their neighborhood school.

New steps to the registration process:

- Parents will be asked to choose either ½ day kindergarten or extended day kindergarten when registering their children.
- Parents will be asked if they are willing to attend another D36 elementary school to access extended day kindergarten for the 2017-2018 school year.
- Registration information will include statements that location of all kindergarten classrooms has not yet been determined. It is anticipated that each elementary building will have kindergarten classrooms. However, it has not yet been determined if all students will attend kindergarten at their home school. Decisions will be made by March 2017.

Other Relevant Information

Classroom locations

[Click here to view the classroom location](#) options outlined for the School Board last Spring. The enrollment balancing committee is also reviewing options for Kindergarten classroom placement. It is anticipated that classroom locations will be determined by March, 2017. Once classroom locations have been finalized, parents will have opportunity to modify their registration choices at that time.

It should be noted that the need for enrollment balancing is not solely related to the decision to extend the Kindergarten day. Managing available space and enrollment at each of the school buildings is warranted despite any modifications to existing programs. In fact, experiences with other districts indicate offering an Extended Day Kindergarten will facilitate an increase in overall enrollment. This would help offset an expected overall decline in enrollment.

Transportation

Transportation requirements will be determined once kindergarten classroom locations are established. If students will be attending kindergarten at a school other than their neighborhood school, transportation to and from school will be provided by the District.

Next Steps

- Update the Board and the Enrollment Balancing Committee regarding kindergarten enrollment figures once registration is completed (December, 2016).

- Enhance and expand the Kindergarten curriculum for Extended Day Kindergarten.
- Provide ongoing communication and outreach to parents as enrollment figures are collected and classroom locations are considered.