

# Benefits of full-day kindergarten program

- More one-on-one time for teachers and children
- Additional opportunities for music, library, fitness and art
- Availability of two nutritious meals per day
- Time for extra support for all learners
- Development of social skills through play and interaction
- Time for children to learn skills through exploration, play and self-discovery



## Staff share thoughts on full-day kindergarten program

“I just love all day kindergarten. I get to know my kids and my families.”

**Lori Thomas**, *Berney Kindergarten Teacher*

“We have more time to do in-depth units for science and social studies...more learning is definitely happening.”

**Loretta Wright**, *Green Park Kindergarten Teacher*

“The full day is very important in ensuring that at least 80% of my students master the content in all subject areas.”

**Suzann Rose**, *Prospect Point Kindergarten Teacher*

“I have become passionate for the full day and all its advantages. I see the positive effects on our students and their growth. We are fortunate for this opportunity, but we know, too, that the foundation to the house of learning that we have built will be solid and will stand strong in the future.”

**Terry Morgan**, *Sharpstein Kindergarten Teacher*

“In an all day model, teachers can provide the individuality students need to establish the building blocks for the attainment of foundation skills in reading, writing, mathematics, and socialization. Additionally, there is time for large and small group instruction that provides students an opportunity to work alongside their peers in an environment conducive to learning, exploration and discovery.”

**Donna Painter**, *Berney Principal*

One teacher, in her third year teaching full day kindergarten, recently added a new student who had been in a half day program. “This child didn’t know any letter sounds and could only recognize three letters of the alphabet. My students right now in February can recognize all letters of the alphabet and know the letter sounds. They can read and write complete sentences. They count past 20 and can count to 100 or higher. We have created many interventions to help our new student catch up to the rest of the class...The difference is clear between half day and full day kindergarten.”

## Walla Walla Public Schools

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Walla Walla  
Public  
Schools

Year Five Report

# Full-Day Kindergarten

Your Partner in Learning - Spring 2011

Investment in full-day kindergarten making a difference  
By Superintendent Mick Miller

Research and common sense tell us that investment in early learning pays significant dividends for our students, especially children from disadvantaged backgrounds. In Walla Walla Public Schools, we are proud of our Head Start/ECEAP preschool and our full-day Kindergarten program. The state of Washington funds full-day kindergarten at Blue Ridge and Green Park Elementary Schools and local tax dollars support full-day programs at our other schools. Three schools, Blue Ridge, Edison and Sharpstein, offer dual language programs for kindergarteners.

Our data, both empirical and anecdotal, shows our youngest children are making solid academic gains in full-day kindergarten classrooms. Also, our youngest children have done a wonderful job of adjusting to the longer school day and our staffs have done a great job of helping with this adjustment. After six years of full-day kindergarten in Walla Walla, the program has truly become part of the fabric of our schools.



### Our Vision

Walla Walla Public Schools

Centers of learning meeting the needs of students

## A glance back...

### Full-day kindergarten adoption timeline

- Fall 2004: Discussions about full-day kindergarten begin
- November 2004: Serious exploration of district-wide concept
- February 2005: House Bill 1919 authorizes full-day kindergarten as part of basic education
- March 18, 2005: School board approves full-day kindergarten
- May 2005: Site visits to full-day programs in other districts
- Summer 2005: Kindergarten teachers attend conference on young learners
- August 24, 2005: Full-day kindergarten begins at all schools
- October 19, 2005: Teachers meet to review materials, schedules and their common focus (Note: Similar meetings occur on a regular basis throughout the 2005-2006 school year.)



Our Core Values  
are more than mere words;  
they're our business!

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect | Courtesy

### Full-day kindergarten nurtures relationships

By Dr. Linda Boggs, Assistant Superintendent

The development and experiences of our youngest students set the foundation for the remainder of their lives. Our goal is to provide the most nurturing and developmentally planned learning environment for students.

Full-day kindergarten gives them a unique environment in which they have time to play, ask questions and learn by exploring their environment - including numbers, books, arts, friends, print, words and music to name a few.

The extended time allows students to practice self-discovery while still following the standards and curriculum. Prior to a longer day, students and teachers often felt rushed, with unspoken pressure to move through the curriculum in order to cover everything that was expected to be learned.

An additional bonus is that teachers are given the opportunity to get to know one class of students and their families as opposed to two. These relationships are significant. When a child's family and kindergarten teacher join together, wonderful things can happen for each individual.



"Prior to a longer day, students and teachers often felt rushed, with unspoken pressure to move through the curriculum in order to cover everything that was expected to be learned."

**Dr. Linda Boggs**  
Assistant Superintendent

### Parents share comments on full-day kindergarten program

*"My wife and I are huge advocates for full day kindergarten and know that it has made our children become better people and citizens in our homes and community."*

*"I could not believe how well both of my kids did in reading! My girls love coming to school and they love to learn."*

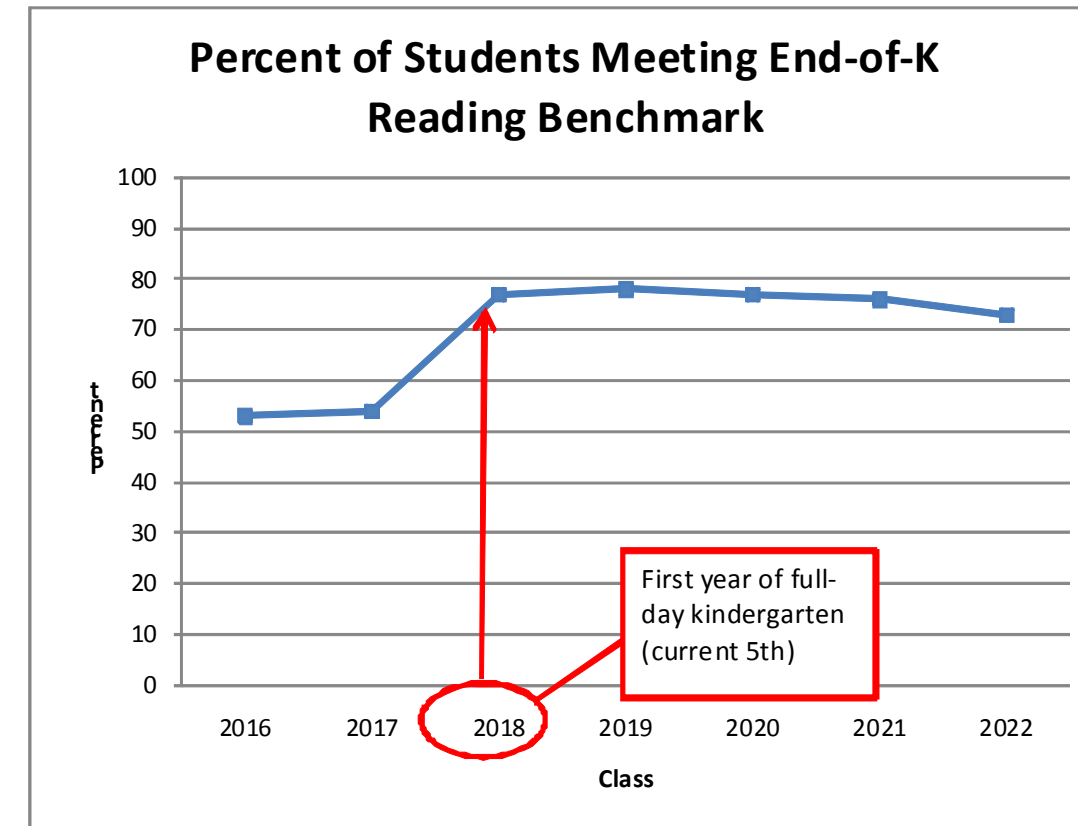
*"Teachers spend more one-on-one time with students...and really assess where children are in their core skills of literacy and mathematics."*

*"I think one of the biggest benefits is time - more time for greater depth and breadth of learning the core subjects, socializing with others, assessing the progress of students and exploring subjects that they otherwise wouldn't be exposed to in a half-day program."*

*"The additional long recess allows (my son) to work on his social skills. When he comes home in the afternoon, he is sometimes tired, but nothing out of the ordinary. In fact, he still has plenty of energy to be crazy at home."*

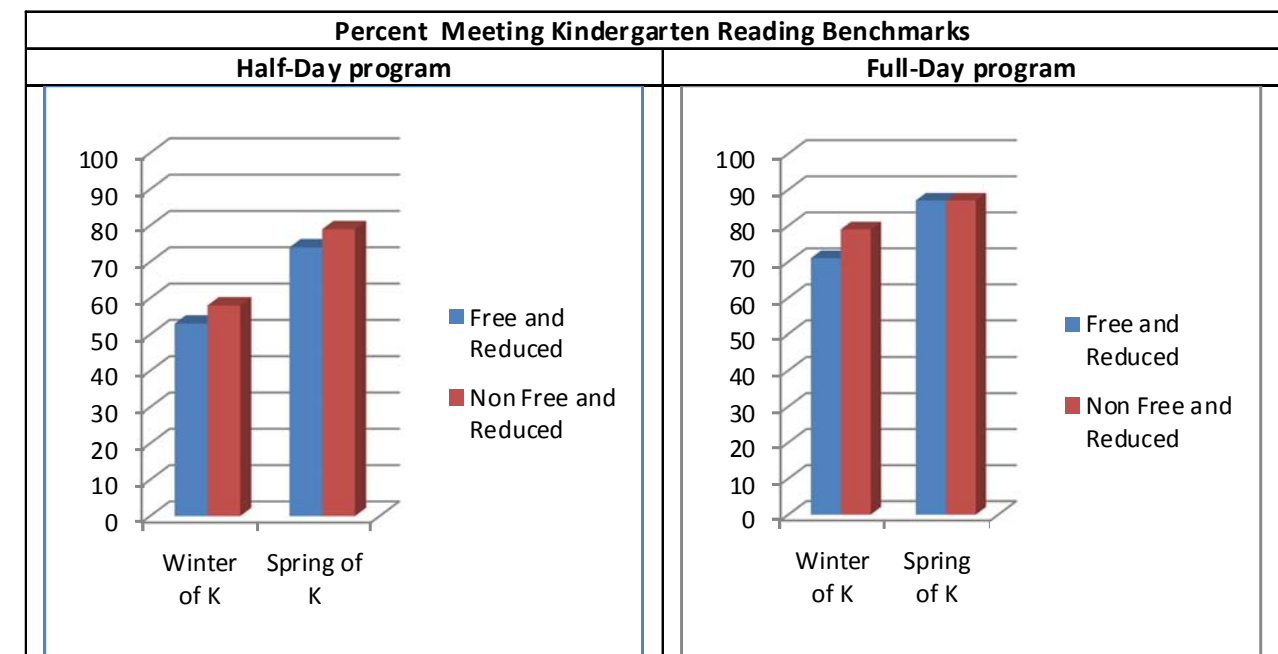
### Test results indicate full-day kindergarten is making a difference

More students overall are leaving kindergarten on-target in reading



Two cohorts of students who participated in full-day kindergarten have passed the 3rd grade state reading assessment at a greater rate than groups of students BEFORE the full-day program.

All day program is helping to close the achievement gap for students from impoverished backgrounds:



Better end-of-kindergarten reading outcomes correlate with higher rates of passing state assessments.

- Class of 2017 (half-day program): 56% passed 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading WASL
- Class of 2018 (full-day program): 64.5% passed 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading WASL
- Class of 2019 (full-day program): 68.3% passed 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading WASL