

OYSTER RIVER COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

36 Coe Drive
Durham, NH 03824

'Working Together to Engage All Learners'



Below are responses to the questions asked by ORCSD School Board Members regarding full day kindergarten implementation. In addition, we have scheduled a Forum/ Information Session for parents and community members on January 12 from 7-8 PM at the Oyster River High School Auditorium. We will also advertise this meeting through school newsletters/ websites, town communications, and parent groups (Parent Teacher Organizations and Oyster River Parents of Preschoolers).

1. Will we be offering a half day option?

Our plan is to offer a full day kindergarten learning experience for students at both elementary schools. If parents wish to dismiss their students at noontime, they will be allowed to do so. Parents should note that academic studies will take place both in the morning and the afternoon. Therefore, dismissing at noon time may result in missing some academic and/ or specials such as PE, art, music, library. In addition, parents will need to provide noon time transportation for their students.

2. Board members inquired about the logistics for serving lunch.

Decisions about timing and location with regard to serving lunch will be determined at the building level. Teachers and administration will work with our Child Nutrition Department to ensure a quality lunch option for kindergarteners.

3. Will the school board class size be maintained?

Yes, the recommendation for kindergarten class sizes is set at 18 students per class.

4. Will registration begin earlier than past year?

Yes, we recommend offering an early March registration week with one late day option for parents. Most of our registration materials are now available online & parents may print, fill out and bring supporting documents to the school for verification. In addition, we will offer a late afternoon registration time for parents.

5. Will teachers be provided professional development for a full day model?

All of our teachers are skilled in the kindergarten curriculum materials and are prepared to teach a full day program. Teachers have visited and observed programs currently in place in neighboring communities.

6. Board members asked to see a sample full day schedule.

Schedules will be developed by classroom teachers and could vary from one another. Our kindergarten team welcomes the opportunity to provide:

Literacy – 60-90 minutes

Mathematics- 45-60 minutes

Science/ Social Studies- 60 minutes

Lunch/ Recess – 25 minutes each/play structured & unstructured

Specials- 45 minutes

Choice/ Free Exploration Time to develop social skills & independent learning- 30 minutes

- For reference only, actual schedules will vary.

8:45-9:00	Check in
9-9:20	Morning meeting.
9:20-10:20	Literacy centers
10:20-11:05	Special
11:15-12:05	Lunch/recess
12:05-12:20	Read aloud
12:20-1:20	Math
1:20-2:20	Science/social studies
2:20-2:45	Choice centers
2:45-3:05	Recess/nature walks
3:10	Dismissal

7. The previously shared power point is now posted on the ORCSD website.

8. Could cost be an issue for implementation?

The reallocation of funds from transportation (removal of mid-day travel) and a shift in enrollment sizes at the upper level grades will fund the full day kindergarten program.

9. How do you suggest handling assignment to schools?

The structure we suggest for assignment to schools is as follows:

- Have families enroll students at their neighborhood schools according to school board designations
- There will be 54 seats available at each school. If classes fill to the recommended school board levels, (18 per class) at a school, then families will be assigned to their sister school
- We will be offering an earlier registration timeline, March 7-11, 2016 for parents to register their students in the spring
- When registering, parents will minimally need to provide proof of residency and a copy of their child's birth certificate
- Parents will be informed of their child's classroom assignment in August

10. Informational meeting with Incoming K parents on January 12, 2016 at ORHS in the auditorium.

11. Registration will be March 7 – 11, 2016

School Board Responses pertaining to Full Day K

DECEMBER 16, 2016 ORCSD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

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Informational meeting with Incoming
Kindergarten parents

on

January 12, 2016

at Oyster River High School

at 7:00 PM

in the Auditorium.

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March 7th
through
March 11th 2016.

