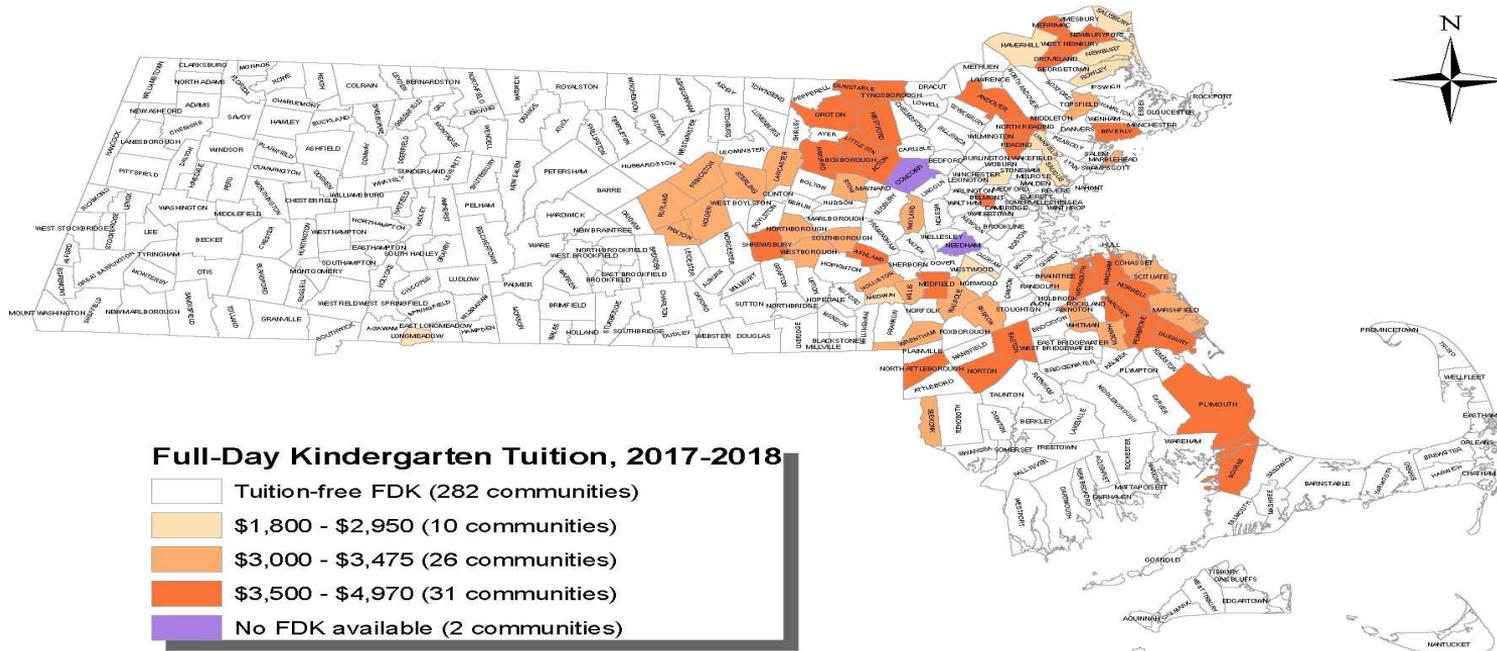


A Plan to Create Tuition Free Full Day Kindergarten in the Ashland Public Schools

Tuition Rates for Full-Day Kindergarten by City/Town, 2017-2018 School Year



56 school districts (serving 67 cities and towns) charge tuition for full-day kindergarten. Average annual tuition is \$3,461. Statewide, 94.7% of public school kindergarten students are enrolled in full-day kindergarten. Source: Strategies for Children tuition analysis, July 2017.

Literature Review as Presented by the Full-Day Kindergarten Task Force on December 18, 2015

The Task Force's research identified the following positive effects of full-day kindergarten:

- Long-term educational gains, especially for low-income and minority students;
- Long-term cost savings are realized by the ability of teachers and other staff to better identify and address student challenges by providing intervention and supports at an earlier age;
- Long-term educational gains by teachers and other staff to better identify and address student challenges by providing intervention and supports at an earlier age;
- Greater social, emotional and intellectual benefits to students;
- Allows for more structured learning in first grade; and
- Faster gains on literacy and language measures when compared to half-day kindergarten students.

National Education Association

Research shows:

Children in full-day kindergarten classes show greater reading and mathematics gains than those in half-day classes.

Full-day kindergarten offers social, emotional *and* intellectual benefits to kindergartners.

Five-year-olds are more than ready for the longer school day, and do better in a setting that allows them to learn and explore activities in depth.

Full-day kindergarten can produce long-term educational gains, especially for low-income and minority students.

[Full Day K Fact Sheet](#)

National Association of School Psychologists

Higher long-term achievement

High achievement for disadvantaged and low income students

Higher reading scores in early grades

Fewer retentions

Higher test scores

More time spent on individualized instruction

More time spent in free play

Greater social skills

More reinforcement of positive social behaviors

Higher self esteem and independence

Greater creativity

How Can We Afford “Not” To Do This?

General Fund Appropriation at Fall Town Meeting:	\$170,000 - Applied Directly to K - Salaries
One Time Fund Appropriation at Fall Town Meeting:	\$250,000 - Assist in Offsetting Current K Costs

Future Years FY '19 - FY '23

- Anticipated Chapter 70 Increase in 2020 of \$131,000 Directly Attributed to Kindergarten Salaries
- Anticipated Spending Down of Remaining Kindergarten Revolving
- General Fund Operating Budget Accounts for Remaining Expense

FY '24 there would be no remaining revolving funds to offset expenses and conservatively no Chapter 70 increase has been accounted for. This leaves a deficit balance of \$155,822 that must be absorbed into the Operating Budget in Fiscal Year 2024 or less than ½% of the entire budget. Recommendation would be to absorb the anticipated in the previous 5 years of budget cycles.

Recommendation

The Superintendent recommends that the Ashland Public Schools improve the quality and effectiveness of its elementary program through the adoption of a tuition free full-day kindergarten beginning in the 2018/19 school year. This is consistent with our Blueprint, beliefs, and what is best for our children.