



WESTERVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

All-Day Kindergarten

Families in the Westerville City School District have the opportunity to enter their kindergartner's name in a lottery which will determine placement in All-Day Kindergarten. Up to 444 students will fill All-Day seats in 18 classrooms, four of which will be held at Longfellow Elementary School. The remaining 14 classes will be housed at each of the elementary buildings with two classes at Alcott and Pointview.

Important Kindergarten Information and Dates

- All-Day Kindergarten applications will be available after 5 p.m. on January 31, 2018 and must be completed no later than March 29, 2018.
- All-Day Kindergarten tuition is \$3,000 per year or \$300 per month for 10 months. (Aug. - May). Tuition assistance is available for those that qualify. Additional information is available online at www.wcsoh.org/ADK
- If your child will be five years old on or before September 30, 2018, you may register him/her for kindergarten in the Westerville City Schools.
- Kindergarten registration begins February 5, 2018.
- If you are unsure of which elementary school your child would attend based upon your home address, please contact any of our elementary schools or the Enrollment & Family Resource Center at 614-797-7700.
- If your child is currently enrolled in the Westerville City Schools preschool program at the ELC, you do not need to re-register, but do need to complete an application for All-Day Kindergarten.
- Kindergarten 101 will be held at 7 p.m. on January 31 and February 1, 2018. Each elementary building will host Kindergarten 101, with the same presentation being made at all sites.
 - ◇ This event clarifies the process for enrolling students in kindergarten, explains the kindergarten day and student expectations, and offers parents the opportunity to ask questions about the kindergarten experience.
 - ◇ Please go to www.wcsoh.org/content/kindergarten for the schedule and additional information regarding Kindergarten and the enrollment process.

Frequently Asked Questions

At what age can my child(ren) attend Kindergarten at Westerville City Schools?

If your child will be five years old on or before September 30 of the upcoming school year, you may register him or her for kindergarten.

May I wait and enroll my child in kindergarten until he/she is six?

Yes, state law requires compulsory attendance of children between the age of 6 and 18.

Is it possible to request "Early Entrance" for my child if their birthday is after September 30, 2018?

If your child will be five years old after September 30, 2018, but you believe he/she is ready for kindergarten, please contact our Gifted & Talented Services Department at 614-797-5887 to discuss early entrance.

What is a typical kindergarten class size?

Class sizes are typically between 24-26 students. Longfellow classes will be capped at 20 because of limited classroom size.

What is the cost of the All-Day Kindergarten program?

School districts at a minimum are required to provide a free, half-day kindergarten opportunity for students. This option remains available to everyone. Families who choose to enroll their child in the All-Day Kindergarten Program will be charged tuition in addition to the standard school supply fee for kindergarten students. Full tuition is \$3,000 per student, or \$300/month for 10 months.

When are tuition payments due?

First payment is due upon acceptance into the program and shall be applied as the August payment. Tuition payments for September through May will be due the first of each month. Families have the option of paying by cash or check or via our online EZPay system.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a plan for families who cannot afford the tuition for the All-Day Kindergarten program?

Tuition is determined through the Tuition Assistance application. If a family qualifies for assistance, the All-Day Kindergarten tuition will be adjusted based on gross income. Please see the Tuition Assistance application at www.wcsoh.org/ADK (available January 31) for additional information.

What is the difference between the half-day program and the All-Day Kindergarten program? Are both options available?

The curriculum is the same for both the half-day and the All-Day Kindergarten Programs. The ADK Program provides time for teachers to devote more attention to the diverse individual needs of children and to extend and reinforce learning for each child. There are greater opportunities to integrate language arts, math, social studies, science and the arts through project work and small group learning throughout the day.

There are limited seats available in the ADK Program. The half-day option will continue to be available to parents in the Westerville City School District.

Do students in the All-Day Kindergarten program move through the curriculum faster than students in the Half-Day Kindergarten program, having an advantage over Half-Day students?

No. The All-Day Kindergarten program allows the teacher to spend more time on a concept being taught. ADK Program participants do not move through the curriculum faster, and they do not advance to the first grade curriculum while still in Kindergarten.

Will students who attend Half-Day Kindergarten be behind students who attend the All-Day Kindergarten program?

All students access the same Academic Content Standards identified for the Kindergarten year. Young children come to school with varying backgrounds and experiences. Boys and girls may have attended preschool or have been in an early childhood center setting. Many have had special learning experiences with their families, including trips, visits to the library, interactions with extended family and exposure to literacy materials in the home. It is the combination of these experiences that sets the stage for learning. Kindergarten teachers work with boys and girls according to their strengths and needs.

Are refunds available for All-Day Kindergarten students?

Refunds may be issued until August 1 if sufficient cause for removal is provided. Once classes have begun, pro-rated refunds will be issued.

How will the All-Day Kindergarten Program application process work?

Given the fact that there are limited seats available in the All-Day Kindergarten Program, admission into the program is determined by a lottery process. Enrollment for all kindergarten students will take place in February, at which time families will be able to complete an online application for the ADK Program Lottery. All students enrolled in Westerville City Schools with completed applications received by

the March 29 deadline will be entered into the lottery. Parents will be notified of the lottery outcome in April.

Is the All-Day Kindergarten student selection process different for multiple or same-age siblings?

Yes. Parents should complete and submit a single All-Day Kindergarten application using any one of their children's names. There will be a space on the application for parents to indicate their preference in keeping their multiples together or in separate classes. Parent preference to keep multiples together is honored when possible due to limited seats available.

If my child attends All-Day Kindergarten at one of the elementary schools hosting the program, does that then become our home school for grades 1-5?

No. Families accepting a seat in the All-Day Kindergarten Program will be allowed to send their child to any site hosting the program, with the understanding that the site chosen does not become the student's new "home school." Upon advancing to first grade, students who participated in the ADK Program would return to their elementary school of attendance based upon home address. If a student's home school of attendance also happened to be serving as their ADK Program site, only then would they remain at that elementary school for grades 1-5.

Is transportation provided for All-Day Kindergarten students?

Students accepted to All-Day Kindergarten who choose to attend the Longfellow Elementary School site or their home school of attendance will receive transportation. Transportation will also be provided to Alcott for students residing in the Fouse and Robert Frost attendance areas and to Pointview for students living in the Huber Ridge or Wilder attendance areas. If another building is selected, the parent must transport. Transportation to a school other than a child's home school will involve a transfer to a shuttle bus.

Are lunches available for All-Day Kindergarten students?

All-Day Kindergarten students are able to purchase lunch at school or may bring a packed lunch.

What are the start and end times for All-Day Kindergarten?

Students are in session from 9:05 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Do you offer before and after-school childcare?

The YWCA operates a school-age child care program, YWCA Kids Place, available before and after school for all of our elementary buildings. This is a fee-based program that operates independently from the school district. For more information, call the YWCA at 614-224-9121 ext. 271 or visit their website at www.ywacacolumbus.org