



# 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 463 students will fill All-Day seats in 19 classrooms, four of which will be held at Longfellow Elementary School. The remaining 15 classes will be housed at each of the elementary buildings with two classes at Alcott, Fouse and Pointview.

## Important Kindergarten Information and Dates

- All-Day Kindergarten applications will be available on January 8, 2021 after 10:00 a.m. as part of the online enrollment application and must be completed no later than March 5, 2021. Kindergarten registration appointments will begin January 11 and must be completed by March 5.
- 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](http://www.wcsoh.org/ADK)
- If your child will be five years old on or before September 30, 2021, you may register him/her for kindergarten in the Westerville City Schools.
- 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 via a link emailed to preschool families.

## 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.

### 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.

### 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](http://www.wcsoh.org/ADK) for additional information.

*See reverse for more FAQ*

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **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 begin in January, at which time families will be able to complete an application for the ADK Program Lottery as part of the online enrollment application. All students enrolled in Westerville City Schools with completed applications received by the March 5 deadline will be entered into the lottery. Parents will be notified of the lottery outcome in March.

## **What procedures are followed if a child is on the waitlist for the All-Day Kindergarten program?**

Once the first choice applications are processed, invitations will be sent via email to a family's second choice based on lottery number until spaces are filled.

## **Can I still apply to the All-Day Kindergarten program if I missed the deadline?**

Late applications will be accepted. If spots remain or become available once the lottery list is exhausted, spots will be filled based on the date the new application was received.

## **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. 1204 or visit their website at [www.ywacacolumbus.org](http://www.ywacacolumbus.org)