

KINDERGARTEN FACT SHEET

February 10, 2014

Dear Parents:

It is our hope that this Fact Sheet will be helpful in reviewing how decisions were made in regards to the kindergarten program for 2014-15. We have held 3 Parent Forums & conducted 2 surveys. All of the notifications for these were sent via AlertNow from the Elementary Schools; we also communicated through PTO weekly emails, MOMS group, Facebook (links on the Storrs Library & Town of Longmeadow pages), postings on the District's website and local newspapers (the Longmeadow News, the Republican & the Reminder).

Pre-Enrollment survey results: 98 eligible students

- HDK – 8 at BH, 11 at Center, 10 at WS
- FDK – 28 at BH, 20 at Center, 24 at WS

Massachusetts children are not required to attend school until age 6.¹

Massachusetts school districts are required to offer half-day kindergarten, but student attendance is not mandatory.¹

Number of districts offering Kindergarten	310 ²
At least 1 FDK	290 ²
HDK only	20 ²
Districts charging tuition for FDK	73
Average tuition: \$3,240 ³	
Grant-funded districts that charge tuition	33
Average tuition: \$3,019 ³	
Non-grant districts that charge tuition	40
Average tuition: \$3,422 ³	

In 2012-2013, 94% (290 of 310) of school districts in MA offered at least 1 classroom of FDK.²

216 out of 310 districts offer FDK district wide.²

87% of MA Kindergarteners attend FDK and 13% of MA Kindergarteners attend HDK.²

All school districts are required to provide a free, part-time kindergarten education for eligible children. Although the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education strongly encourages all districts to offer full-day kindergarten (FDK) free of charge, they provide no financial support to economically advantaged communities; districts may charge tuition for hours beyond the 425 instructional hours required for part-time kindergarten.⁷

NEIGHBORING DISTRICTS

	Full Day	Half Day	Amount Received from Quality FDK Grant in 2013 ⁴	Tuition ³
Agawam	Yes		\$ 129,772	
Amherst	Yes		\$ 91,516	
Chicopee	Yes		\$ 270,048	
East Longmeadow	Yes	Yes	\$ 54,260	\$ 2650
Holyoke	Yes		\$ 239,660	
Northampton	Yes		\$ 94,890	
Springfield	Yes		\$ 1,160,988	
West Springfield	Yes		\$ 138,772	
Wilbraham	Yes		\$ 101,268	

“LIKE” DISTRICTS

	Full Day	Half Day	Amount Received from Quality FDK Grant in 2013 ⁴	Tuition ³
Easton	Yes	Yes		\$ 3,500 ⁵
Hanover	No	Yes		
Holliston	Yes	Yes		\$ 3,475
Littleton	Yes	Yes		\$ 4057 ⁸
Marblehead	Yes	Yes	\$ 135,024	\$ 2,600
Medway	Yes	Yes		\$ 3,475
Reading	Yes	Yes		\$ 4,200
Wayland	Yes ⁶	Yes		\$ 4,000 ⁶
Wellesley	No	Yes		
Westwood	Yes	No	\$ 106,899	\$ 1,800

1. http://www.strategiesforchildren.org/eea/6research_summaries/06_InvestFDK.pdf
2. http://www.strategiesforchildren.org/eea/6research_summaries/07_FDK_Factsheet.pdf
3. http://www.strategiesforchildren.org/eea/6research_policy/09_FDKTuition.pdf
4. FUND CODE 701 ATTACHMENT E (UPDATED NOVEMBER 2012 & FEBRUARY 2013): FY2013 Revised Grantee Funding Amounts (Fund Code 701 - Quality FDK Grant)
5. http://www.easton.k12.ma.us/Center_School/Kindergarten_files/FAQ%E2%80%99S.pdf
6. http://www.wayland.k12.ma.us/UserFiles/Servers/Server_1036352/File/Superintendent/FY14%20Budget/Budget_Book_FY14.pdf
7. <http://www.doe.mass.edu/kindergarten/grants.html>
8. phone call to 978-486-3959