

Full Day Kindergarten FAQ's

Q: Which schools will have the Full Day Kindergarten program this year?

A: *Full Day Kindergarten is an added tuition-based, district program - not a guaranteed program - that depends entirely on whether or not an individual school can accommodate it. We like to offer it, if we can, because we know what a help it is to our families. Some of the factors in whether or not we offer FDK are space, the number of students registered in kindergarten, and any unusual situations that exist at the school. Principals make the final determination on whether to house a program after March's Kindergarten Registration.*

Q: When might a school open up a second session? If a second session does open up, how are children picked to be in this class and how will we be notified?

A: *Principals open a second full day program in their school after they know if there is enough interest in the program to fill an additional class, space is available in the school, and it will not negatively impact the half-day program. Names are taken from the full day wait list and building secretaries notify families.*

Q: Where do I register?

A: *Registration is at your neighborhood school. Kindergarten registration is scheduled for the 1st Wednesday and Thursday of March. Dates and times will be posted on the District web site www.issaquah.wednet.edu and published in the local newspapers.*

Q: How old does my child need to be to register? Can I register him/her before they are 5?

A: *Incoming kindergarten students must be at least 5 years old by August 31 in order to register. Students who will not be 5 by August 31 may register if they have completed testing and have been confirmed for early entrance by the office of the Executive Director of Elementary.*

Q: What do I need to register?

A: *Immunization records, proof of birth date such as a copy of the birth certificate or passport, and proof of home address such as a purchase or lease agreement and an energy utility bill are necessary for registration.*

Q: When and where are the lotteries held?

A: *The lottery is held at your neighborhood school the Wednesday following the registration. Parents are encouraged to observe the lotteries.*

Q: How are the names drawn in the lottery...a boys' list and a girls' list or are all the names mixed and then chosen randomly?

A: *A group of at least two individuals will draw all names in a non-gender lottery creating the class list and the wait list (in order) of any additional names. Parent observation is welcome and encouraged.*

Q: Can I enroll in more than one lottery?

A: *No, you may only enroll in one lottery at your neighborhood school. If you would like to be considered for another school's full day program, you must complete the Non-Neighborhood form available at your neighborhood school during registration. Placement will be made if space becomes available.*

Q: My child qualifies for special education services. Can we still participate in the full day kindergarten program?

A: *Yes, Special education students can participate in the Full Day Kindergarten program. If the special education student is selected in the lottery process, the parents will meet with the student's I.E.P. team as soon as possible to determine if the Full Day Kindergarten program can meet the needs of the student.*

No additional special education resources/services, aside from what is in the I.E.P., will be provided in the Full Day Kindergarten program.

Q: What is the non-neighborhood lottery?

A: *Families who wish to attend a school outside of their neighborhood attendance area can take part in a "non-neighborhood lottery" for the school they wish to attend. The non-neighborhood lottery is also open to families whose names are not drawn for FDK at their neighborhood school and who would like to attend a FDK program at another school. Families will be notified if an opening occurs.*

To be eligible for a non-neighborhood lottery, families must have completed a non-neighborhood lottery form during the regular kindergarten registration at their neighborhood school. If you think a non-neighborhood lottery may be of interest, be sure to fill out the form ahead of time.

Q: If I have been successful getting into a full day program other than my neighborhood school through the non-neighborhood lottery, and a space opens at my neighborhood school, can I return to my neighborhood school during the kindergarten year?

A: *No, the only way to go back to your neighborhood school is to be in the half-day program there.*

Q: How often do I pay the tuition?

A: *You may pay in one of two ways:*

(A) Monthly – We'll set up an automatic withdrawal program

(B) In full – You may pay for the entire year by check when your registration is confirmed.

Each year Full Day Kindergarten tuition amount is set based upon costs of the program. The amount is calculated annually to pay costs that the state does not cover – teachers, supplies, and educational assistant time.

Q: Why does the district charge for the Full Day Kindergarten?

A: *The state of Washington only pays for kindergarten students to attend school half day. Tuition is charged for the unfunded portion of the optional full day program to cover the additional costs such as teachers, supplies, and educational assistant support. Full day kindergarten is increasingly recognized as a valuable program, and Issaquah School District makes it available when there is space in the elementary schools.*

Q: Is there scholarship money available? How do I apply for scholarships?

A: *Yes, there is a limited amount available for families who qualify for free or reduced meals and choose to participate in the scholarship lottery. Before the scholarship lottery, held the third Wednesday of March, families who believe they qualify should complete a Free and Reduced Meals form available from school office staff, and return it to the school secretary who will then forward it to the Elementary Bookkeeper to make the qualification determination. If you are successful in obtaining a scholarship in the scholarship lottery, tuition will be at a reduced rate. The Elementary Bookkeeper will then inform the families of the results. Once the scholarship lottery is completed there will not be any additional scholarship money available.*

Q: What happens if I am unable to pay the tuition?

A: *Payment for FDK must be made in advance. If an account becomes delinquent, the family is notified. If the account remains delinquent, the family will have to leave the full day program and the school principal will determine which half-day classroom is best for the student.*

Q: If I want my child to repeat kindergarten, can he/she be in the Full Day program automatically?

A: *No, we are unable to hold places for students. To be part of the full day program one must go through the lottery process. If the decision to retain a student is made after the lottery and the placement of choice is the full day program, the student's name will be placed on the wait list at the neighborhood school.*

Q: My child has been in daycare until now and needs a full day program, can I get special consideration for placement in the Full Day Kindergarten?

A: *No, every family desiring full day kindergarten placement for their student must go through the lottery process.*

Q: How is the curriculum different in the Full Day Kindergarten program?

A: *The curriculum is consistent in both the full and half-day programs; the general pace in the full day program is more relaxed with added enrichment and extension activities.*

Q: What are the bell times for the Full Day program?

A: *Students in the Full Day Kindergarten follow the same schedule as grades 1 through 5 at their school.*

Q: Do they ride the bus?

A: *Yes, the kindergarten students will ride the same bus as the other students in their neighborhood.*

Q: Can my student attend the ISD Full Day program if we are not ISD residents?

A: *Out-of-district students may register in the program on the first day of the school year on a space-available basis. Out-of-district students must also register as out-of-district students with the office of the Operations Coordinator.*