

First 2 Weeks of Kindergarten

Assessment & Class Assignments

State Code - R277-419-4. Minimum School Days:

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 - An LEA may designate no more than a total of 5 educational service days at the beginning of the school year for the assessment of students entering kindergarten.
 - If educational service days are designated for kindergarten assessment:
 - an LEA shall designate the days in an open meeting;
 - an LEA shall provide adequate notice and explanation to kindergarten parents well in advance of the assessment period;
 - assessment time per student shall be adequate to justify the forfeited instruction time.

Why did we need to adjust the first 2 weeks of Kindergarten?

Full Day Kindergarten classes throughout the District were very unbalanced.

Our goal was to create more balanced classes to better support students and teachers.

We needed to balance:

- **Behavior**
- **Academics**
- **Social/Emotional Needs**

Suggestions

- Test students the first week of August (low attendance, teachers summer cut short)
- Test at Kindergarten Roundup (too early, low attendance - 35%)
- Test the first week of school (minimum days only allowed the first week)
 - Classes cannot be balanced, you can't separate behaviors.
- Test the first week after students are released (tired kids & teachers, family obligations)
- Have substitute teachers while teachers test during the school day during the first week of school. (chaos and confusion for students)

How the 2025-2026 Kindergarten Year started

- Students attended the first full week of minimum days while teachers and paras observed behavior.
- During the week, all teachers were able to work with every student as they rotated between classes.
- Tues-Wed: all students came for a 30 minute appointment for academic testing
- Thurs - teachers and administrators analyzed data and created classes
- Friday - teacher had class lists and prepared for students
- Monday - teacher prep/ Open House for students to visit assigned teacher and classroom
- Tuesday - First Official Full Day of Kindergarten in their assigned classes

Teacher Survey Results

A survey was sent out to all 41 Kindergarten Teachers for input.

88% of teachers wanted to adjust, improve, refine, and continue with this plan

12% of teachers wanted to throw it out

68% of teachers felt their classes were more balanced

32% of teachers felt their classes were about the same

27% of K teachers don't have years of comparison

Parent Survey Results

A survey was sent to all parents of Kindergarten students in the District

29% of Kindergarten parents responded to the survey

Overall, 17% of parents in the District had negative feedback/comments regarding how we started Kindergarten this year.

How did we respond to the data from teachers and parents?

- District Kindergarten team (one K teacher from each school) met to review survey result/comments and share feedback from their individual teams.
- The whole focus of this discussion was to decide what would be best for kids and support teachers.
- We spent 3.5 hours refining the plan and came up with 3 options that could work for next year.
- A survey was sent to all Kindergarten teachers to vote on the 3 options.

Survey Results

39 out of 41 Kindergarten teachers responded to the survey.

The majority of teachers voted for the following plan:

Monday-Wednesday: students attend minimum school days while teachers/paras observe behavior

Thursday-Friday: Students come back for 20 minute appointment for academic testing

Monday - Labor Day

Tuesday - create classes

Wednesday - teachers prepare classrooms for students

Thursday - Parent Intake Conferences

Friday - Student's Official First Day in their assigned classroom

THANK YOU!

Having a para in every Kindergarten classroom this year has made a big difference!

Questions?