



# Full-Day Kindergarten Planning & Options

(rev. 10-23-14)

Beginning in September 2015, Lincoln County School District (LCSD) will offer full-day kindergarten. There are two reasons for this.

First, the state of Oregon is strongly recommending and encouraging all school districts throughout the state to offer full-day kindergarten. Second, and most importantly, the school district feels that this is what's best for kids. Many of our students are arriving in kindergarten lacking basic early learning skills. The extra academic and social / emotional learning provided in a full-day kindergarten classroom would give our young students a strong foundation for future success.

By moving from half-day kindergarten to full-day kindergarten, the number of students we serve would remain roughly the same (approx. 370). However, we would require additional teachers, resources, and classrooms because these children will be in the school for full days. Our schools in Toledo and Waldport have classroom space available to meet this additional need. Our schools in Lincoln City and Newport do not.

Superintendent Steve Boynton and district administrators have begun exploring possible solutions. When reviewing options and their impacts, many variables must be considered: teacher and support staffing, academic programs, special programs (i.e. special education, English language learners, Talented and Gifted, etc.) bus routes, food service, custodial, office staff, finances, infrastructure, and more.

At this point, no final decision has been made for any area of the school district. The hope is to address parents' concerns while gathering good, solid information to make the best decision for students and the district as a whole. You can help in this process by attending one of the following community meetings:

### **Lincoln City Community Meetings**

- Wednesday, Oct. 29      6 PM      Oceanlake Elementary School
- Tuesday, Nov. 4          6 PM      Taft Elementary School
- Thursday, Nov. 13      6 PM      Taft High 7-12

### **Newport Community Meetings**

- Wednesday, Oct. 29      7 PM      Boone Center at Newport High School

## **SUMMARY OF OPTIONS BEING CONSIDERED**

**WALDPART:** Crestview Heights School (grades K-8) would need one additional kindergarten class. Existing classroom space is available and we would hire an additional teacher and furnish the classroom.

**TOLEDO:** Toledo Elementary School (grades K-6) would need one or two additional kindergarten classes. It is difficult to predict – some parents request variances from Toledo to Newport (often because of childcare availability), and some parents choose to send their children to the charter schools located in the east area. The availability of full-day kindergarten at Toledo Elementary may impact these numbers.

If only one additional classroom is needed, this could be handled with the addition of a teacher and classroom furnishings. If two additional classrooms would be needed, we would remodel existing space, but even “minor” remodeling can be expensive.

**LINCOLN CITY:** We would need to add five or six additional kindergarten classes to our north area schools. One option would be to construct additional classrooms at Oceanlake Elementary School (grades K-6) and remodel existing space at Taft Elementary School (grades K-6). Again, even “minor” remodeling has a financial impact. If this option is selected, it would be necessary to redraw school boundaries to balance the student population at the two elementary schools; this means some children would pass by a school closest to their home to attend another school four miles away.

Another option would be to remodel existing space at Taft Elementary, relocate non-classroom services (the HELP and Early Intervention programs) to nearby Taft High 7-12, and reconfigure grade levels as follows: grades K-2 at Oceanlake Elementary, grades 3-6 at Taft Elementary, and grades 7-12 at Taft High.

**NEWPORT:** There are two issues in the west area – the need to add five to six additional kindergarten classes and the fact that Newport High School is at capacity (620+ students in grades 9-12) with no available space for expansion.

One option would be to construct classrooms at Sam Case Primary School (grades K-3), but this would not address the issue at Newport High. Newport High could expand to both the west and east campuses, but this would dislocate Newport Prep Academy (grades 7-8). Yaquina View could be reopened as a school (it was closed after the 2008-2009 school year and currently houses district programs and staff, and a private preschool). However, having two elementary schools located one mile apart is not an efficient use of resources.

Another option, which appears to be most efficient in terms of academic programs, services, and finances, would be to reopen Yaquina View as a school, relocate district staff and programs located there to the Arcadia School in Toledo and/or other district sites, and reconfigure grade levels as follows: grades K-2 at Yaquina View, grades 3-5 at Sam Case, grades 6-8 at Newport Intermediate, and grades 9-12 at Newport High School, using both east and west campuses.

At this point, we are investigating options for the students of Isaac Newton Magnet School (grades 7-8).

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

Depending on what action is taken, the cost to Lincoln County School District to add additional classrooms for full-day kindergarten ranges between \$1.2 million and \$3 million. State legislation, if passed, will make additional funds available for the operation of full-day kindergarten.

## **HOW WE WILL COMMUNICATE**

We will continue to rely on our local news reporters to share information with the community. Our school principals are encouraged to share information with their students and families. The LCSD central office will post regular updates to the district website ([www.lincoln.k12.or.us](http://www.lincoln.k12.or.us)), as well as the LCSD Facebook page and Twitter account to reach a wider community audience.

## **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

The superintendent and many other district and school administrators, teachers and support staff have children and grandchildren who attend schools in Lincoln County School District. District personnel are diligently working to offer a comprehensive education of the whole child that promotes growth and academic achievement for every child.

As a community, we all have a stake in working together to create a school district that is a model of excellence, equity and achievement. Your role as a parent/guardian is crucial in this endeavor! Please continue to be an active participant in your child's education. Please continue to communicate with your child's teacher and the school principal.

If you have specific concerns or questions, feel free to ask your principal or contact Superintendent Steve Boynton directly by calling 541-265-4403 or sending an email to: [Steve.Boynton@lincoln.k12.or.us](mailto:Steve.Boynton@lincoln.k12.or.us)