



Universal Full-Day Kindergarten  
2022-2023

# The Why

If we believe...

“The human brain develops most rapidly from birth through age five. This is a time of enormous social, emotional, physical and cognitive development when children can build either a strong or fragile foundation for future growth and learning. High-quality early education provides essential support for future success in school and life.” ([Strategies for Children, n.d.](#))

Then...

WHRSD will implement Universal Full-Day Kindergarten to provide all students with the same academic and social-emotional learning opportunities that build foundational skills and knowledge necessary for life.

What are the advantages of  
Full-Day Kindergarten  
over Half-Day Kindergarten?



Full-Day Kindergarten provides increased academic opportunities.

- Children in full-day kindergarten programs receive 40-50% more instruction than children enrolled in half-day kindergarten programs. More instructional time in full-day kindergarten allows for increased learning activities and strategies such as group read-alouds, peer tutoring, mixed-ability grouping, and child-initiated activities ([Strategies for Children, 2019](#))
- Teachers have more time to individualize lessons to meet differing developmental needs ([Barnes, n.d.](#); [Strategies for Children, 2019](#))
- Students have increased time to gain mastery of necessary skills that decrease the need for interventions and/or retention ([Strategies for Children, 2019](#); [NAEYC 2011](#))
- Full-Day Kindergarten Helps close the achievement gap with greater reading and mathematics literacy gains than those in half-day classes ([Education Commission of the States, 2016](#); [Lee et al., 2006](#); [Pelletier, 2017](#))
- Full-day programs “spend 30% more time on reading, and literacy instruction and 46% more time on mathematics than children in half-day programs” ([Strategies for Children, 2019](#); [Education Commission of the States, 2016](#); [Lee et al., 2006](#); [Pelletier, 2017](#))

Full-day kindergarten not only boosts students' academic achievement, it also improves their social and emotional skills ([Barnes, n.d.](#))

- Children “exhibit more independent learning, classroom involvement, productivity in work with peers and reflectiveness” ([Strategies for Children, 2019](#))
- Increases students' interpersonal skills as more time to interact with peers and teachers ([Pelletier, 2017](#))
- Students expressed less withdrawal, anger, shyness, and blaming behaviors than half-day kindergartners ([Barnes, n.d.](#); [Strategies for Children, 2019](#))
- Full-day kindergarten allows for a more consistent schedule for children and reduces the ratio of transition time to class time, reducing stress for children ([Strategies for Children, 2019](#))
- Full-day kindergartners generally are more prepared for school, do better with the transition to first grade, show significant gains in school socialization, are equipped with stronger learning skills, and have higher academic achievement in later grades. ([Barnes, n.d.](#); [Strategies for Children, 2019](#))

Studies show that Full-Day Kindergarten provides greater support for At-Risk students ([Strategies for Children, 2019](#))

- At-risk students who received full-day kindergarten through the Kindergarten Initiative in Montgomery County, Maryland made significantly greater progress in language proficiency than comparable children in half-day kindergarten.
- A study of 17,600 Philadelphia children found that full-day kindergarten helps children from low-income families perform better and saves the school district millions of dollars through significantly reduced grade retention in the first through third grades.
- Research from Lowell Elementary School in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where the average entering kindergartener was already 22 months below grade level, showed that children in the school's half-day kindergarten made an average gain of 5.4 months during a 9 month period, while children in the full-day classes made a 16 month gain.
- Studies of Minneapolis Public Schools showed that minority children in full-day kindergarten gained literacy skills at a faster pace than peers in half-day classes.
- Low-income children who attended high-quality early education programs on average outperformed those who did not on literacy tests at ages 19 and 27.
- Low-income children with high-quality early learning experiences are 30% more likely to graduate from high school, and more than twice as likely to attend college.

How many Whitman-Hanson students  
attended Full-Day Kindergarten and  
Half-Day Kindergarten?

How does WHRSD compare to  
Massachusetts and Plymouth County?



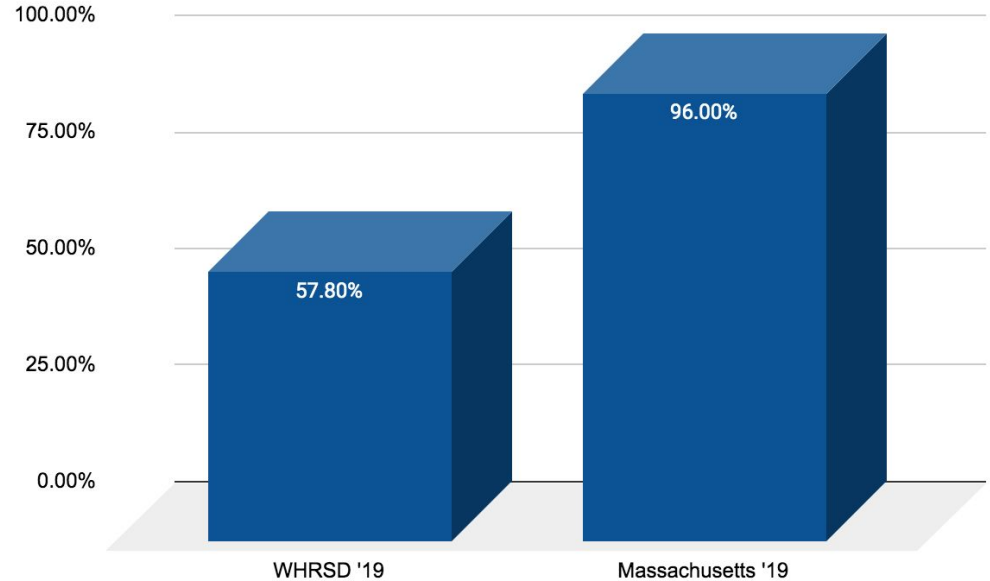
# 2019 Full-Day Kindergarten Enrollment (pre-pandemic) WHRSD vs. Massachusetts

## WHRSD

- 57.8% of students attended Full-Day Kindergarten
- 137 students in Full-Day, 100 students in Half-Day

## Massachusetts

- 96% of students attended Full-Day Kindergarten
- 65,944 students in Full-Day, 2,395 Half-Day

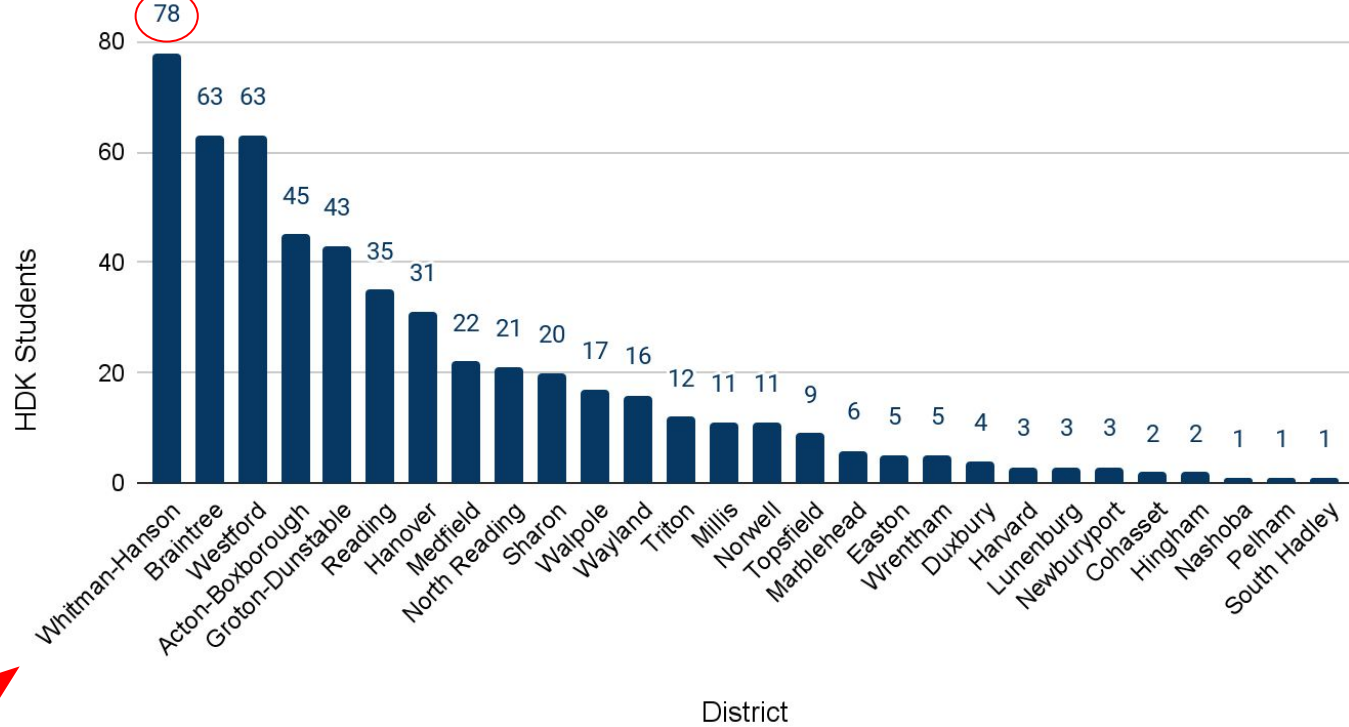


[http://www.strategiesforchildren.org/doc\\_research/FDK/FDK\\_Factsheet.pdf](http://www.strategiesforchildren.org/doc_research/FDK/FDK_Factsheet.pdf)

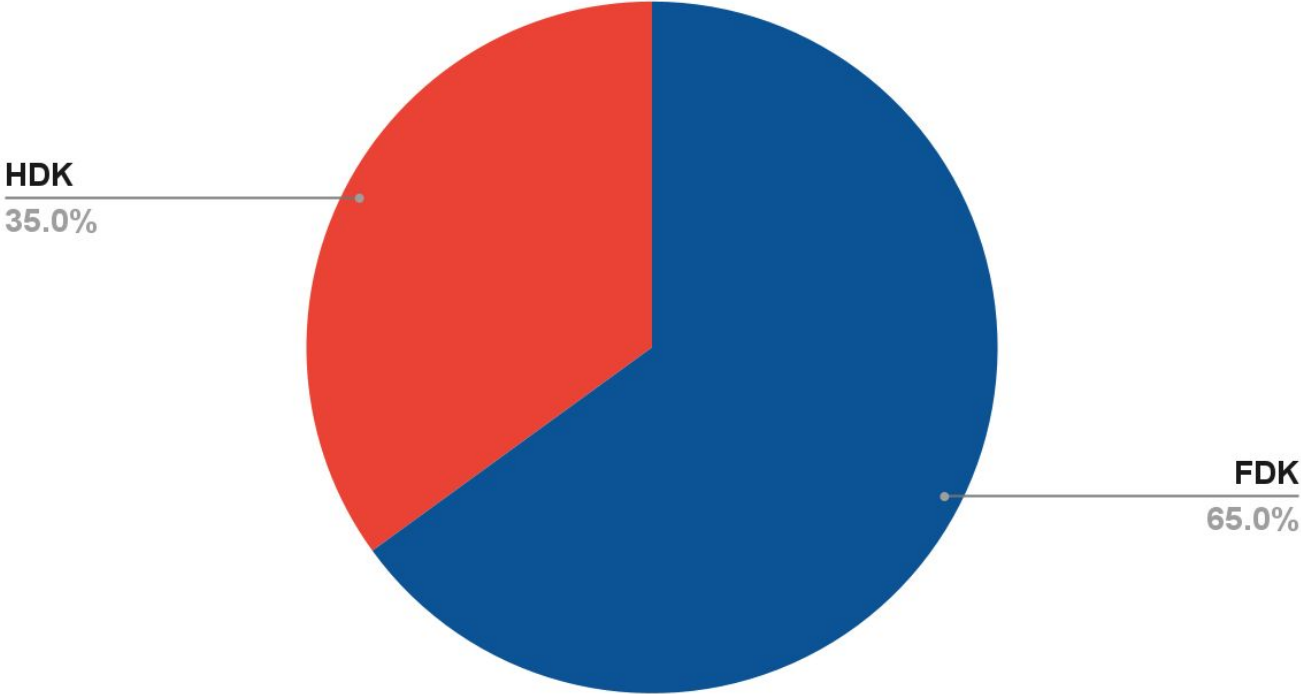
<https://profiles.doe.mass.edu/analysis/default.aspx?orgcode=07800000&orgtypecode=5&>



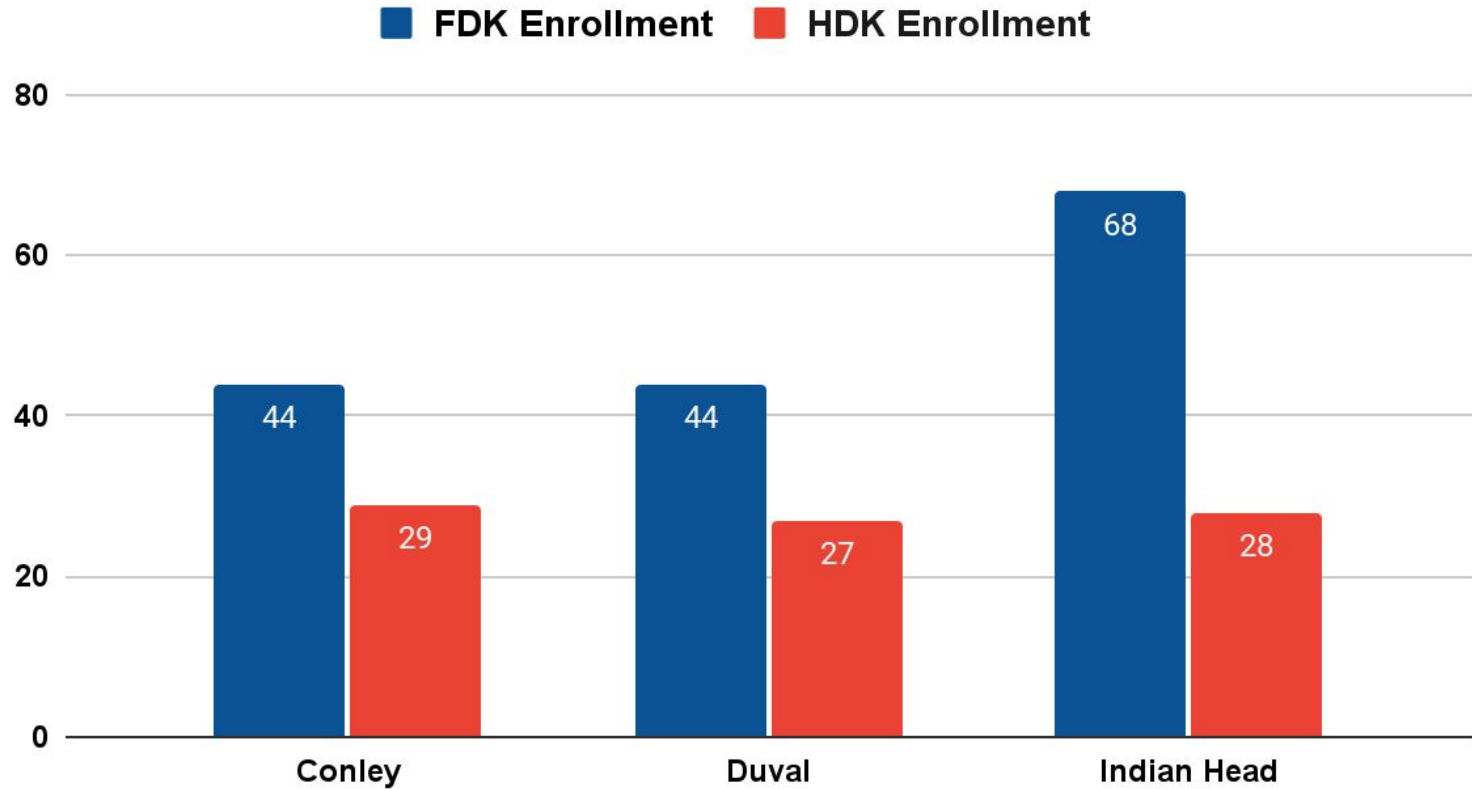
## 2021-2022 HDK Enrollment in Massachusetts (as of 12/9/21)



# 2021-2022 WHRSD Kindergarten Enrollment



## 2021-2022 WHRSD Kindergarten Enrollment by School

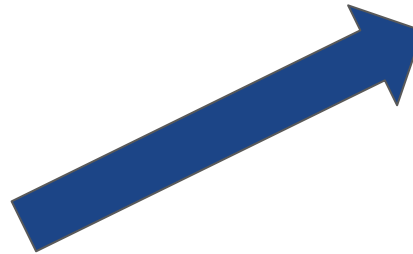


# Tuition-Based Full-Day Kindergarten in Massachusetts

There are 289 public school districts in Massachusetts not including charter, vocational, agricultural, and virtual.

In 2019-2020, WHRSD was 1 of 38 Massachusetts districts charging families for Full-Day Kindergarten

Since 19-20, 14 school districts have implemented Universal Full-Day Kindergarten leaving WHRSD 1 of 24 districts in Massachusetts that charge families for Full-Day Kindergarten.



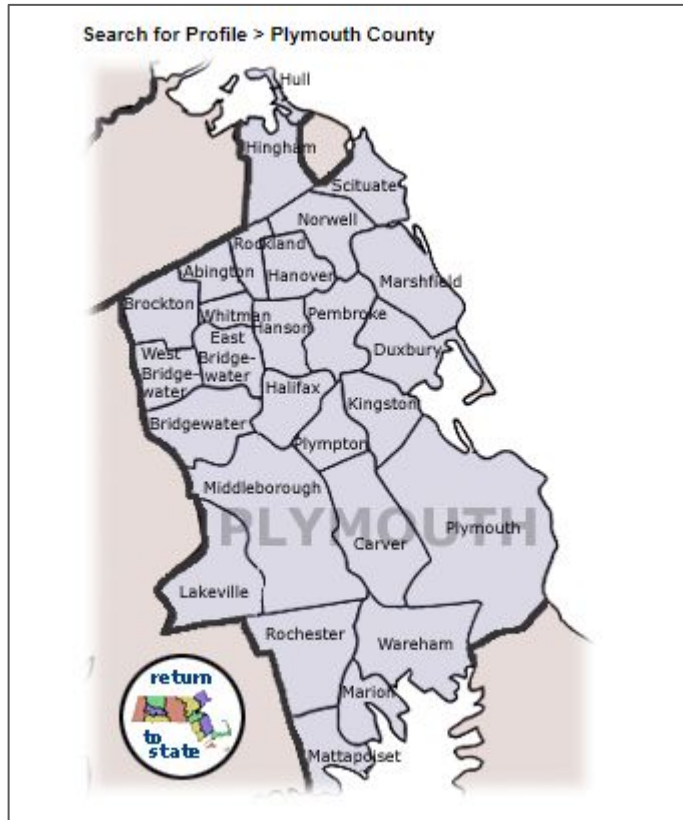
## Districts that adopted U-FDK since 19-20

Andover  
Belmont  
Beverly  
Holliston  
Littleton  
Nashoba RSD  
N Attleborough  
Pentucket RSD  
Saugus  
Scituate  
Shrewsbury  
Tyngsborough  
Westborough  
Weymouth

<https://profiles.doe.mass.edu/statereport/ppx.aspx>

[http://www.strategiesforchildren.org/doc\\_infographics/FDK/FDKTuitionRates.pdf](http://www.strategiesforchildren.org/doc_infographics/FDK/FDKTuitionRates.pdf)

# Tuition-Based Full-Day Kindergarten in Plymouth County



Among the 25 public school districts in Plymouth County, WHRSD was 1 of 6 districts to have a Tuition-Based Kindergarten program in the fall of 2020:

When did the other 19 districts implement U-FDK?

- 15 school districts provided U-FDK in 2018 or earlier
- 3 districts implemented U-FDK in 2019
- 1 district had no information

As of Fall 2021, WHRSD is 1 of 5 school districts to have a tuition-based Kindergarten program. Scituate implemented Universal Full-Day Kindergarten 21-22.

<https://profiles.doe.mass.edu/analysis/enrollment.aspx?orgcode=00090000&orgtypecode=5&>

<b>Plymouth County School Districts</b>	<u>Tuition-Based FDK Fall 2020</u>	<u>Tuition-Based FDK Fall 2021</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Abington	N	N	U-FDK 2019
Bridgewater-Raynham	N	N	U-FDK 2018 or earlier
Brockton	N	N	U-FDK 2018 or earlier
Carver	N	N	U-FDK 2018 or earlier
Duxbury	Y	Y	2022: 97.7% FDK enrollment (4 students not FDK)
East Bridgewater	N	N	U-FDK 2018 or earlier
Halifax	N	N	U-FDK 2018 or earlier
Hanover	Y	Y	2022: 82.3% FDK enrollment (31 students not FDK)
Hingham	Y	Y	2022: 92.2% FDK enrollment (2 students not FDK)
Hull	N	N	U-FDK 2018 or earlier
Kingston	N	N	U-FDK 2018 or earlier
Lakeville (Freetown Lakeville)	N	N	U-FDK 2018 or earlier
Marion	N	N	U-FDK 2018 or earlier
Marshfield	N	N	U-FDK 2019
Mattapoisett	N	N	U-FDK 2018 or earlier
Middleboro	N	N	U-FDK 2018 or earlier
Norwell	Y	Y	2022: 93.1% FDK enrollment (11 students not FDK)
Pembroke	N	N	U-FDK 2019
Plympton	N	N	U-FDK 2018 or earlier
Rochester	N	N	no information available
Rockland	N	N	U-FDK 2018 or earlier
Scituate	Y	N	<b>U-FDK 2022</b>
Wareham	N	N	U-FDK 2018 or earlier
West Bridgewater	N	N	U-FDK 2018 or earlier
Whitman-Hanson	Y	Y	2022: 67.1% FDK enrollment (78 students not FDK)
Total Tuition-Based	6	5	

Note: Highlighted towns had a Tuition-Based Full-Day Kindergarten Program in the last two years

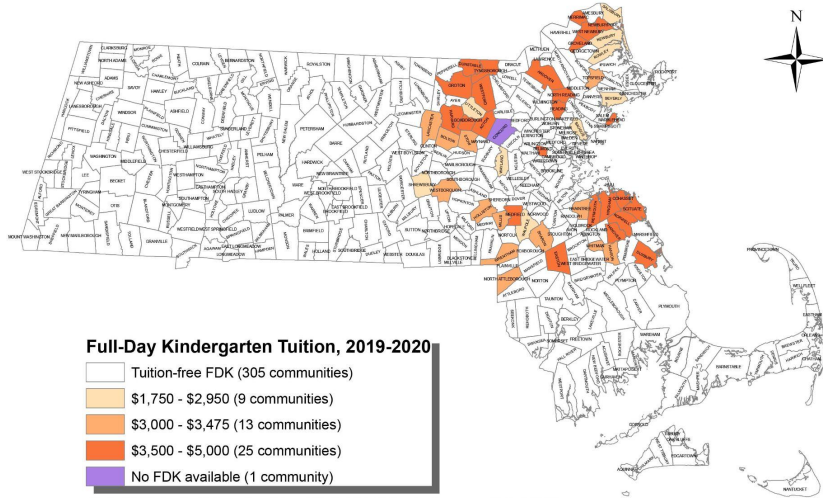
# What do other towns charge for Tuition-Based Full-Day Kindergarten?



# Tuition-Based Full-Day Kindergarten Rates



Tuition Rates for Full-Day Kindergarten by City/Town, 2019-2020 School Year



38 school districts (serving 47 cities and towns) charge tuition for full-day kindergarten. Average annual tuition is \$3,454. Statewide, 96.4% of public school kindergarten students are enrolled in full-day kindergarten. Source: Strategies for Children tuition analysis, July 2019.

400 Atlantic Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

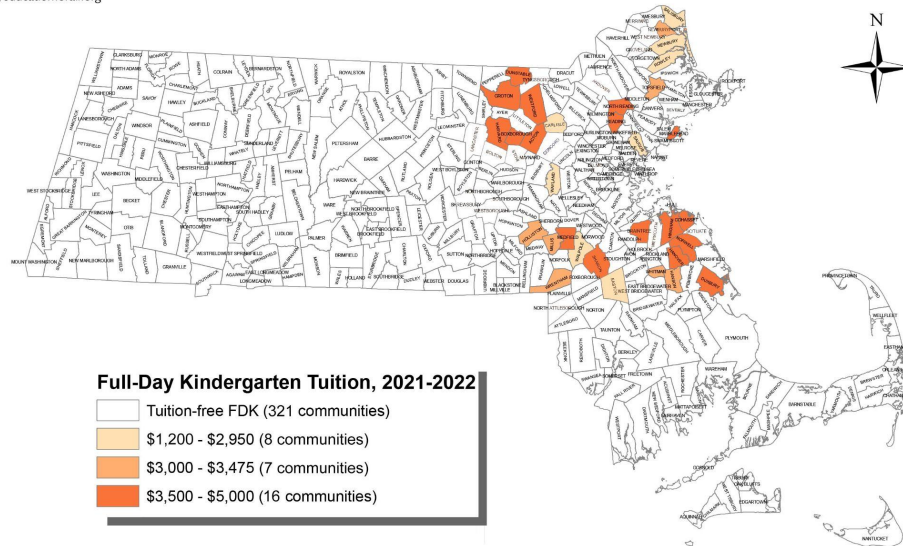
[www.strategiesforchildren.org](http://www.strategiesforchildren.org)  
[www.earlyeducationforall.org](http://www.earlyeducationforall.org)

phone: 617.330.7380  
fax: 617.330.7381

2019–2020 tuition ranged from \$1750 - \$5000

Created with data from  
**Strategies for Children**  
[www.strategiesforchildren.org](http://www.strategiesforchildren.org)  
[www.earlyeducationforall.org](http://www.earlyeducationforall.org)

Tuition Rates for Full-Day Kindergarten by City/Town, 2021-2022 School Year



2020–2021 tuition ranged from \$1600 - \$5000



## Plymouth County Tuition-Based Kindergarten

WHRSD is 1 of 5 districts in Plymouth County that currently charge for Full-Day Kindergarten. Here are the rates:

<b>Plymouth County School Districts with a Tuition-Based Full-Day Kindergarten Program</b>	<b><u>Tuition-Based FDK Fall 2021</u></b>	<b><u>FDK Enrollment</u></b>	<b><u>Tuition Fees</u></b>
Whitman-Hanson	Y	156	\$3,200.00
Scituate	N	*	\$3,500.00*
Norwell	Y	149	\$4,000.00
Hingham	Y	260	\$3,750.00
Hanover	Y	144	\$3,750.00
Duxbury	Y	172	\$4,000.00

[\\* Scituate implemented Universal Full-Day Kindergarten 2021-2022](#)

How much will the school budget  
increase by adding Universal  
Full-Day Kindergarten?



On February 2, 2022 Superintendent Szymaniak presented a school budget that included Universal Full-Day Kindergarten. Please review the resources below to see the impact of this initiative on the school budget.

- [WHRSD 2022-2023 Budget Resources](#)
- [WHRSD School Committee Meeting February 2, 2022 \(youtube\) - Superintendent Szymaniak's 2022-2023 Budget Presentation](#)

What are the next steps?



There are many ways for parents and community members to support the school budget and this initiative:

- Email your elected officials at [schoolcommittee@whrsd.k12.ma.us](mailto:schoolcommittee@whrsd.k12.ma.us) to share your views
- Email Superintendent Szymaniak at [info@whrsd.org](mailto:info@whrsd.org) to ask questions. Answers to the most common questions will be shared on the WHRSD website.
- Get involved by attending WHRSD School Committee meetings held in the WHRHS Library at 6:30 PM. See School Committee dates on the next slide.
- Attend a meeting before March 16, 2022 to share your views
- The school budget for 2022-2023 will be certified on March 16, 2022
- Attend a PTO/PAC meeting to ask questions in-person. See locations and dates on the next slide.

# Important Meeting Dates

- The next School Committee meeting dates are:
  - February 2, 2022 - [School Budget Presentation](#) (click to watch)
  - February 9, 2022
  - February 16, 2022
  - March 2, 2022 if requested
  - March 9, 2022
  - March 16, 2022 - vote budget for Town Meeting deadline
- Attend Whitman or Hanson Town Meeting on Monday, May 2, 2022 and vote for the school budget
  - Residents must be registered voters to attend Town Meeting and vote on the budget.

At this time families need to register their child for the Kindergarten program that works for their family. The WHRSD currently offers Half-Day Kindergarten and Tuition-Based Full-Day Kindergarten.

If the proposed school budget for FY23 that includes Universal Full-Day Kindergarten is passed at Whitman and Hanson Town Meeting on May 2, 2022, then families who placed a deposit for the tuition-based program would receive a refund.

Registration for Half-Day Kindergarten and Tuition-Based Full-Day Kindergarten opens on February 22, 2022. Similar to years prior, a completed registration with deposit must be received by March 18, 2022 for Full-Day Kindergarten. Full-Day Kindergarten spots are limited, but we haven't needed a lottery in a couple of years. If Full-Day Kindergarten registrations are high, and a lottery is needed, the lottery date will be announced after March 18, 2022.

**Why is Universal Full-Day Kindergarten  
being presented this year?**





Equity of opportunity and educational experience is fundamental to the success of WHRSD students.

WHRSD has been endorsing Universal Full-Day Kindergarten (U-FDK) for a long time. In 2005, the WHRSD Early Childhood Strategic Planning Committee Report endorsed a Tuition-Based Full Day Kindergarten Program along with a plan for Universal Full-Day Kindergarten by FY08. The WHRSD Tuition-Based Full-Day Kindergarten program began in FY07. In December 2012, School Committee voted to implement a No Cost Full Day Kindergarten Program beginning in 2014-2015. Unfortunately, due to consistent budgetary constraints, those efforts were not realized.

WHRSD continued its commitment to Universal Full-Day Kindergarten as described on district strategic plans since 2016. During the summer of 2021, WHRSD School Committee agreed on three goals to implement for FY23 budget: Full Day Kindergarten, robust related arts programs, and 1:1 technology devices for students in Grades 3-12. Superintendent Szymaniak also prioritized Universal Full-Day Kindergarten by listing U-FDK as the #1 goal for the FY23 district budget.

While WHRSD has addressed other equity issues in the district, Universal Full-Day Kindergarten hasn't been solved due to ongoing funding obstacles. The disparity between FDK and HDK is well-studied as documented at the beginning of this presentation and is the reason most school districts in Massachusetts have already implemented the program. WHRSD is among five districts in Plymouth County that continue to offer a Tuition-Based Full Day Kindergarten Program and is among twenty-three districts across the entire Commonwealth. The greater social-emotional and academic needs created by the pandemic only heighten the need to implement Universal Full-Day Kindergarten for FY23 as other districts have already done.