

Full-Day Kindergarten Proposal

Presentation to the WRSDC
October 15, 2018



Background

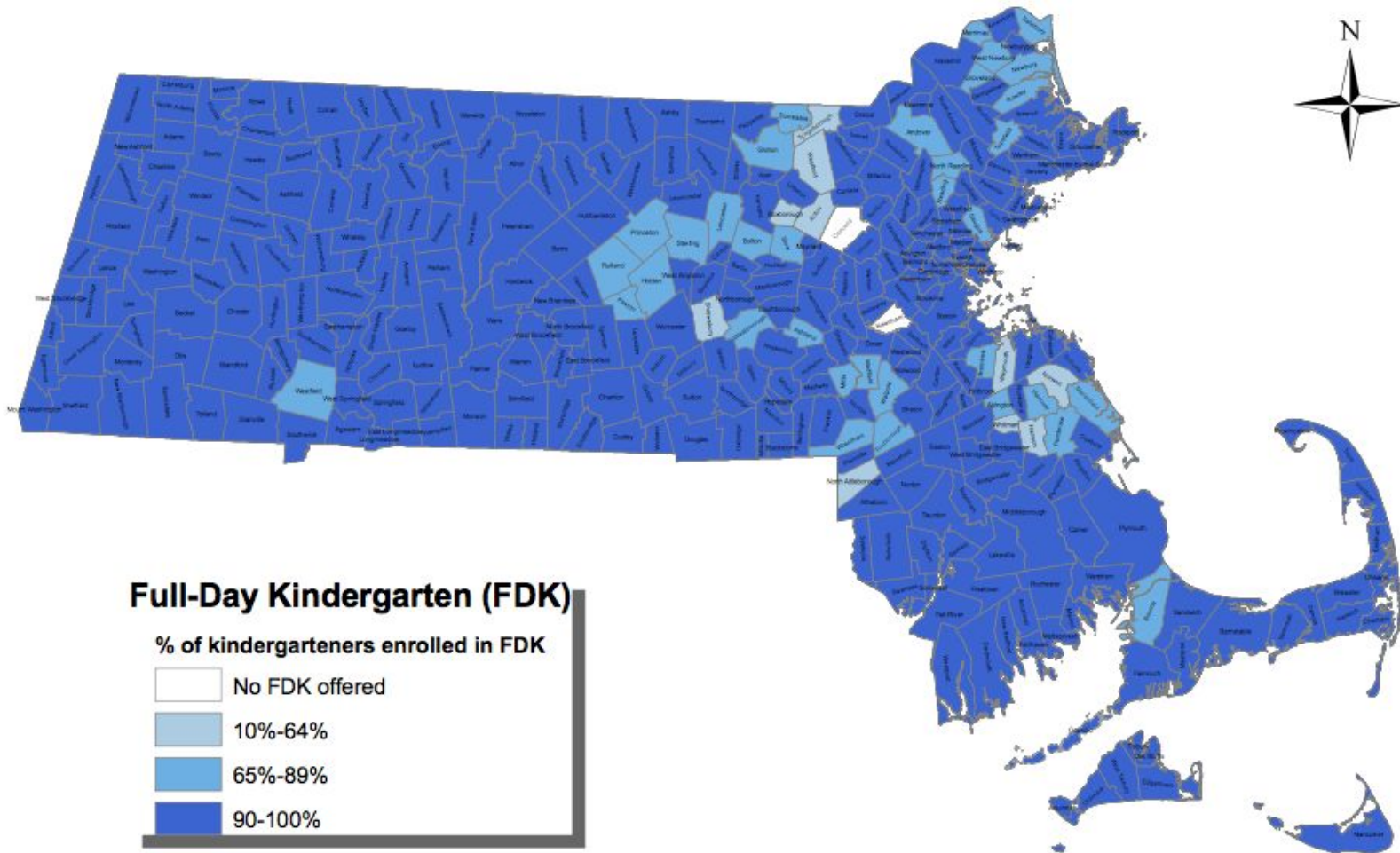
Why do we not yet have tuition-free full-day k?

- Classroom Space
 - Holden currently lacks sufficient classroom space to house free full-day k for all of its students
- Funding
 - The District would have one fiscal year without tuition and before additional Chapter 70 funding increase

Massachusetts Kindergarten Statistics 2017-18

● Kindergarten enrollment	66,014
● # of students in full-day k	63,229
● # of students in half-day k	2,785
● # of districts offering full-day k	317
● # of districts not offering full-day k	2
● # of districts charging tuition for FDK	45
● # of districts offering tuition free FDK	272

- K information from [Strategies for Children](#)



*Statewide, 95.8% of public school kindergarten students are enrolled in full-day kindergarten.

*City/town estimates based on enrollment in corresponding school districts.

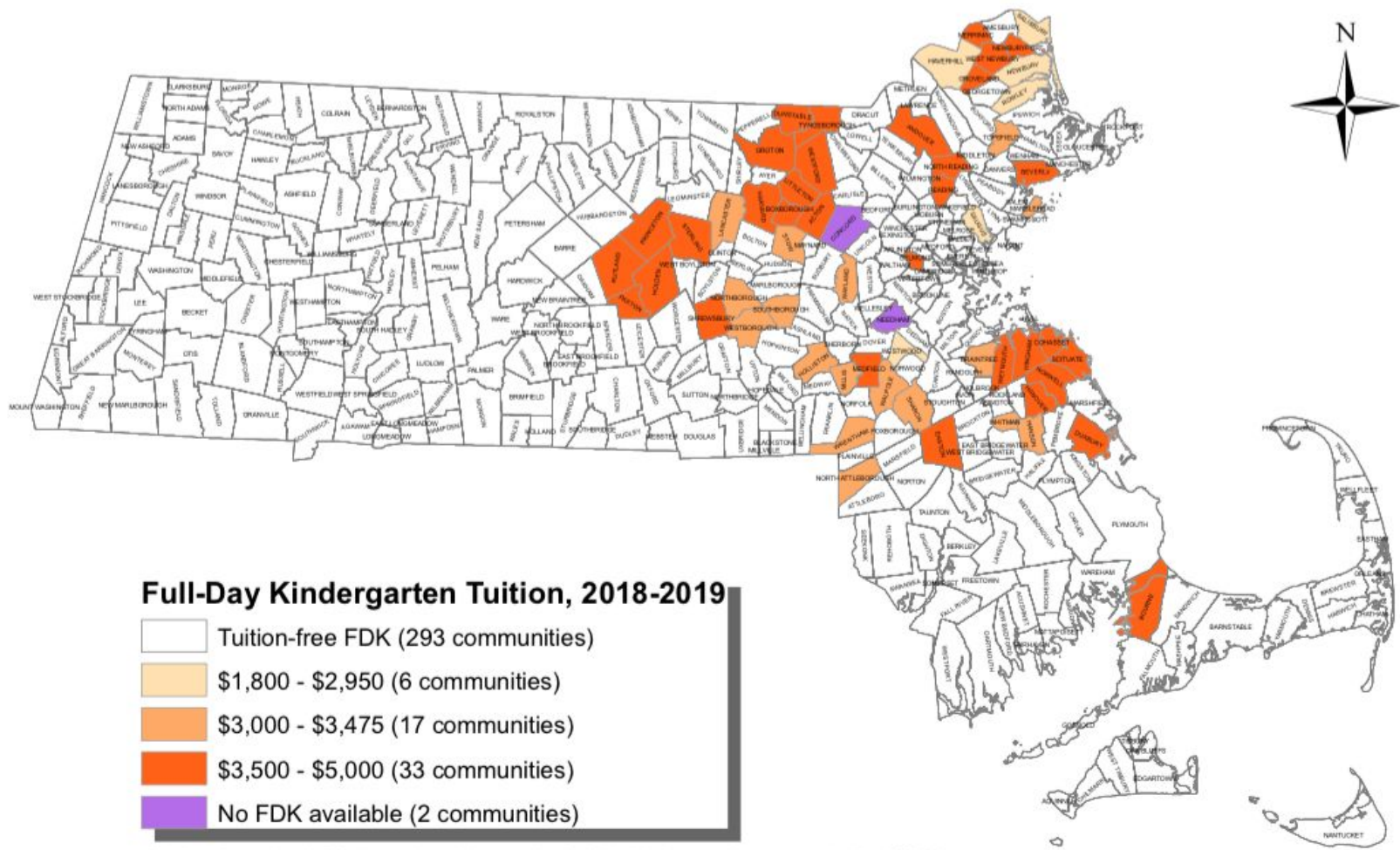
*Source: Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Tuition Based Full Day Kindergarten

- The WRSD has offered tuition-based full-day k for 10 years
- There is a lottery for available slots
- FY19 - There are currently 307 full-day kindergarten students
- FY19 - There are currently 154 half-day kindergarten students
- 95.8% of all k students statewide attend full-day k

Tuition Based Full Day Kindergarten

- Of the 307 full-day kindergarten students:
 - 41 students are free full-day k based upon special education needs or free and reduced meals.
- With tuition of \$3,500 per student, tuition generates \$931,000 annually:
 - The funds generated through tuitions offsets the full time salaries for teachers/paraprofessionals who would typically be .5 FTE.



45 school districts (serving 56 cities and towns) charge tuition for full-day kindergarten. Average annual tuition is \$3,538. Statewide, 95.8% of public school kindergarten students are enrolled in full-day kindergarten. Source: Strategies for Children tuition analysis, June 2018.

Tuition Based Full-Day Kindergarten

- All five towns offer tuition-based full-day kindergarten:
 - Davis Hill - 3 classes
 - Dawson - 3 classes
 - Mayo - 2 classes
 - Naquag - 3 classes
 - Houghton - 2 classes
 - Paxton Center - 2 k classrooms comprised of full and half day
 - Thomas Prince - 2 k classrooms comprised of full and half day

Rationale

Benefits of Full-Day Kindergarten

- More learning occurs in both literacy and math
 - Across all grade levels, academic expectations for students have increased, including kindergarten students to meet challenging benchmarks for literacy and math.
- A student attending full-day k receives the equivalent of approximately 1 month extra of learning in literacy and math

Benefits of Full-Day Kindergarten

- There is sufficient time for exploratory experiences
- Students develop more independence around their learning
- More opportunities for supporting students in areas such as Social Emotional Learning -
 - More time spent supporting students' abilities to manage the social and emotional skills needed to be successful in a classroom.

Proposal - Modular Classrooms

Full-Day Kindergarten

- Modular classroom learning spaces at Mayo Elementary to accommodate full-day k and paid for by Holden
- Two Modular classrooms could be temporarily placed at Mayo until a plan of action around the pupil projection is defined
- Mayo reclaims its Music room which is now used as a full-day k classroom

Full-Day Kindergarten - Modular classes



Full-Day Kindergarten - Modular classes



Projected costs

Full-Day Kindergarten Projected Costs

- Teacher salaries would need to move from the Kindergarten Revolving Account into the operating budget
- Additional k teaching staff - 3 FTE's
- Additional k paraprofessional staff - 3 FTE's
- Additional funding for new classroom materials, furniture, etc.

Full-Day Kindergarten Projected Costs

- Using current enrollment figures, the District would need to hire 3 more full time kindergarten teachers bringing the total to 26 FTE's at an additional cost of approximately \$162,000 in salary totals
- In addition to teachers, the District would also need to add 3 paraprofessionals for an additional cost of approximately \$48,600 in salary totals
- Benefits for 6 new staff would be approximately \$74,000

Full-Day Kindergarten Projected Costs

With the addition of tuition-free full-day kindergarten, the Chapter 70 funding from the state would increase the year following implementation -- **FY21**

- Currently the District receives partial Chapter 70 funding for kindergarten students
 - For FY19, the WRSD's Foundation Budget is based upon 353 half day students and 41 full day students

Full-Day Kindergarten Projected Costs

Chapter 70 Foundation Formula:

- Full-day kindergarten student = \$7,716
- Half-day kindergarten student = \$3,858
- Full-day tuition kindergarten student = \$3,858

Full-Day Kindergarten Projected Costs

- The cost associated with the addition of the full-day kindergarten staff to the salary line would eventually be offset by the increase in Chapter 70 funding
- The difference in the Foundation rate for half-day and full-day for Wachusett is \$3,858 for FY19
- Based upon FY19 numbers, the District would receive additional funding of approximately \$1,361,874
- Chapter 70 increase translates into money from both state and local funds

Full-Day Kindergarten Projected Costs

- One time costs associated with initial implementation:
 - Salaries and Benefits: *\$1,215,600
 - Materials: \$60,000

Approximate Total : \$1,275,600 for FY20

**This amount includes the \$931,000 in salaries that would have been covered by tuition*

- FY21 will see an increase in Chapter 70 funding of approximately \$1,300,000

Full-Day Kindergarten Projected Costs

Impact on Chapter 70 Funding with implementation of full-day k

- Currently, 4 of 5 Member Districts are at their Target Share with respect to their required local contribution
- Assuming adding the half-day student increase proportionately across Member Towns using FY19 data, 4 or 5 Member Towns new Target Contribution would not change
- Princeton's Required Contribution would increase an additional \$48,000
- Why? Princeton is currently under their Target Share

Next steps

Work with the town of Holden

- Discuss the concept of modular classrooms at Mayo
- If supported, define a timeline for the project
- Work with town officials on completion of the project

How might the WRSD afford this financially?

- Three options for implementation:
 - Add to the budget request from WRSDC for FY20
 - Utilize Excess & Deficiency
 - Create a separate warrant article for Town Meetings

How might we afford this financially?

- Additional option - Three year tuition reduction:
 - Reduce tuition over 3 years so that the tuition is no longer a necessary part of the budget
 - Chapter 70 funds would increase at the end of this process
 - Less of an initial budget issue, but the process is prolonged, and learning is delayed

Full-Day Kindergarten

- This is a temporary fix:

Holden will require an addition to an existing school or a new building in the next several years to accommodate the projected increase in student population

Equal Learning

All students in Wachusett will benefit from attending tuition-free full-day k



“Early childhood education is the key to
the betterment of society ”

- Maria Montessori

Thank you