

Mayor's Update



(Want to play *Where's Henry?* Mayor Fuller's grandson Henry was at story time this morning at the Auburndale Community Library with a roomful of future full day kindergarteners.)

I have some big news to announce: full day kindergarten for all Newton Public School students is starting in September!

This represents a big step forward for our public schools. After years of discussion this is happening because of the hard work and commitment of the Newton Teachers Association, the School Department, the

School Committee, and yes, the \$1 million added to the school budget by my administration.

Here is the letter Superintendent David Fleishman sent to the community today:

I am very excited to announce that all Newton elementary schools will offer full day kindergarten (FDK) in the '19-'20 school year. We believe this change has tremendous benefits for both students and families and will provide the opportunity to improve our already strong kindergarten program.

Beginning in September, all kindergarten students will follow the same schedule as other elementary students in grades 1 to 5. We expect this will make scheduling more manageable and predictable for all families in our district.

You can be assured that our elementary schools will continue to focus the kindergarten experience on supporting both the academic and social and emotional needs of students. The expanded time will provide greater opportunities for children to develop their social and emotional skills through a range of learning experiences. We will also maintain our commitment to small group instruction with a full-time teaching assistant in each kindergarten classroom to support both the teacher and students.

We will be communicating more specific information to incoming kindergarten families in the coming days as well as at the kindergarten orientation for families in February. You can visit our Kindergarten registration [website](#) where more information will be posted as it becomes available.

Finally, I am grateful to Mayor Fuller for providing additional funding to our system in support of FDK and to the Newton Teachers Association for their commitment to making this change possible. Many people have been working on this initiative for several years and we are excited for its implementation in September.

We'll look forward to welcoming the class of 2032 starting full day kindergarten this fall!

Warmly,

Ruthanne

