



NEWS RELEASE

Wayne Township Board of Education

October 18, 2016
For Immediate Release

Contact Information:
Mark Toback
Superintendent of Schools
(973) 633-3000
mtoback@wayneschools.com

Wayne Township Public Schools Board of Education

Statement Regarding Full-Day Kindergarten Special Question

October 18, 2016

(WAYNE, NJ) - In addition to the national implications with selecting a new President, the election of November 8, 2016 will hold a special significance for the Wayne Township Public Schools. Voters will be making an important decision about the future of the school district and will decide whether or not the district will offer a full-day kindergarten program starting with the 2017-2018 school year.

The **SPECIAL QUESTION** will appear on the ballot as follows:

RESOLVED, that there should be raised an additional \$2,096,885 for General Funds for the ensuing school year (2016-2017). These taxes will be used exclusively for the expansion of the District's existing half-day Kindergarten program to a full day program, which proposed expenditures are in addition to those necessary to achieve the Core Curriculum Content Standards, with such total amount to be used as follows: Of said tax levy, \$1,986,785 to employ additional personnel and to provide related professional development for the expansion of the District's existing half-day Kindergarten program to a full day program, which will result in a permanent increase in the District's tax levy; and of said tax levy, \$110,100 to be used to provide funds for improvements to instructional spaces, including technology, to support the expansion of the Kindergarten program, which will not result in a permanent increase in the District's tax levy.

In addition to the special question, the following **INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT** will appear on the ballot:

A “YES” vote will establish full day kindergarten in the district with a \$2,096,885 increase in the District’s tax levy for the 2016-2017 school year. The estimated tax impact to the average household assessment of \$229,044.00 will be \$93.91. A “NO” vote will prevent the District from expanding its existing half-day Kindergarten program to a full-day program.

While the special question and interpretive statement are very informative, it is important to address a number of other common questions about the full-day kindergarten special question. The following FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) addresses many questions and inquiries from the public.

WAYNE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN FAQ

Q: How will students benefit from a full-day kindergarten program?

A: A full-day kindergarten program will better prepare students academically and socially for the first grade and beyond. The additional time in school will make it possible for the district to expand the existing curriculum, and it would also allow teachers to include more age appropriate learning opportunities, such as structured play and learning centers. Currently, time limits opportunities for structured play and learning centers. Additional time would also make it possible for the district to increase the amount of intervention services provided to our students in need.

Q: If full-day kindergarten is approved, will the district continue to offer half-day sessions for parents who would like their children to remain in a half-day setting?

A: No, the special question includes a full-day program for all kindergarten students. No half-day kindergarten sessions would be offered.

Q: Will the district be required to undergo any construction or renovation work in order to accommodate the additional students?

A: Currently, the district has the space to house additional students and no construction will be necessary. However, the district will have to make some changes with how our facilities are used. It is likely that the district will need to repurpose instructional space in a limited number of schools. Repurposing space would most likely mean that dedicated art and music classrooms would be converted to kindergarten classrooms. In other cases, specialized programs may be moved from one building to another. It is important to note that in the future, a significant increase with enrollment may require construction or renovation work.

Q: The public voted “no” to a special question about full-day kindergarten last November. Why is there another vote on full-day kindergarten?

A: After the outcome of the last special question, and considering all other factors, the Board of Education and administration determined that full-day kindergarten is such a significant matter in the community that an additional opportunity to bring full-day kindergarten into the school system was warranted.

Q: Based on the special question, I can see that the cost of full-day kindergarten in Wayne for the first year will be \$2,096,885. What impact will this have on my tax bill?

A: \$93.91 would be the total amount of additional tax needed to support full-day kindergarten for the 2017-2018 school year *based on the 2016 average assessed household of \$229,044.*

Q: The election is being held on November 8, 2016. If the special question is approved by voters, the district won't be adding full-day kindergarten until the following school year. What impact will this have on my tax bill?

A: Taxpayers will receive a supplemental tax bill for the first and second quarter of 2017 (February and May tax bills). This supplemental tax bill will reflect an entire year's worth of additional taxes split between these two quarters. Using the average assessed home as an example, the tax bills

for the first and second quarter of 2017 would increase by \$46.96 for each quarter.

NOTE: Municipalities in New Jersey operate on a calendar year while the fiscal year for school districts starts on July 1st and extends through June 30th. This regularly creates confusion whenever there are questions about the impact of the school budget on tax bills. In Wayne, taxes are due quarterly on February 1st, May 1st, August 1st and November 1st. The February and May bills would include the additional tax amount for full-day kindergarten.

TAX IMPACT BASED ON AVERAGE ASSESSED HOME OF \$229,044

<u>Quarterly Taxes Due</u>	<u>Tax Impact</u>
February 2017	Your 1st Quarter Tax Bill + \$46.96
May 2017	Your 2 nd Quarter Tax Bill + \$46.96

Q: If full-day kindergarten is approved by voters, the district will receive funding for a program that will not operate until the following year. What will the district do with my tax dollars?

A: The 2017-18 school year does not start until July 1, 2017. Start-up costs are a part of the implementation costs and the district may make some purchases needed to start the program during the fiscal year 2016-17, which ends June 30, 2017. The balance of the funding will remain in a reserve account to be used to support the operation of full-day kindergarten in the 2017-18 school year.

Q: Based on the timing of the election and tax collections, if voters approve full-day kindergarten, then the district will be collecting taxes to pay for full-day kindergarten one year in advance. How long will this go on and what will happen with this funding in future budgets?

A: The advance collection of taxes only occurs during the year of the full-day kindergarten vote (2016-2017 school year). Thereafter, the collection of taxes would occur during the year in which the full-day kindergarten program is operational.