



Full Day Kindergarten

An Update

School Committee

May 20, 2019

Planning Team Membership

→ 32+ members:

- Each school represented: a teacher or specialist
- 9 Kindergarten & 1 gr. 1 teachers, 5 Principals
- All departments represented: Special Education, OT, Speech & Language, Math Coach, Literacy Specialist, Library/IT, Aides plus additional on-consult staff
- Central Office, Pre-School, METCO leaders

Working Assumptions

When planned intentionally and purposefully, *“Play is the leading instructional approach for delivering standards-based curriculum that is aligned with the MA Curriculum Frameworks.”*

(p. 9, MA DESE HQ2.0)

Working Assumptions cont.

- *A high-quality curriculum is executed, presented, and experienced as an integrated system.....*
- *Curriculum needs to be sensitive to diversity in culture and language, responsive to children with special needs, and to offer flexible and adaptable instruction for children who could benefit from increasing challenges or who need attention to specific areas.*
- *Research has demonstrated that kindergarteners need to be engaged in active, integrated learning*

What will remain the same?

- **Effective teachers**
- **Curricular content**
- **Opportunity for small group work throughout the day, yet will be enhanced with 2nd adult**
- **Introduce non-pilot schools to Investigations3**

What will be different?

- **A full time general education assistant**
 - **2nd adult able to facilitate skill development: language, social negotiation skills, problem-solving, exploration, small group work**
- **More flexible & longer blocks for learning:**
 - **for children to build SEL skills through intentionally scheduled playful learning**
 - **for teachers to extend lessons following the needs and interests of students; “*breathing room*”**
 - **to schedule specials across the day**

Next steps: Spring 2019

Planning sessions for teachers - 5/21 & 6/6:

- Integrating *intentionally and purposefully planned playful learning* throughout the curriculum
- *Structures to Match Learning Goals:* from whole class experiences to use of centers (where content, play, and SEL skills are integrated) including management & accountability for student participation and learning in small groups.
- *Flexibly scheduling* the kindergarten day
- *Assistant & Teacher Partnerships:* roles & responsibilities, managing communication & planning

Under Construction:

- **Professional learning:**
 - **Teacher/assistant co-planning - “*becoming partners*”**
 - **SEL through a Culturally Proficient lens**
 - **Teacher-identified needs from spring PD**
- **Curriculum adjustments to explicitly incorporate playful learning experiences – 2019-21**

