



# Poudre School District

## FREE ALL-DAY KINDERGARTEN

Governor Jared Polis' office recently announced the State of Colorado will now fully fund all-day kindergarten.

Starting in the 2019-20 school year, PSD will

receive full funding for kindergarten students.



**ENROLL  
IN FREE  
KINDERGARTEN  
TODAY!**



All students can now attend full-day kindergarten programs for FREE in PSD!

(Half-day programs are also free.)

Children who are currently registered for half-day kindergarten are still able to enroll in a full-day kindergarten program for the 2019-20 school year.

Please contact your child's school as soon as possible to discuss the change.





# Free All-Day Kindergarten in PSD

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q** What's the story with Colorado's all-day kindergarten programs? I've lived in other states, and kindergarten has always been free.

**A** Under previous law, the State of Colorado's school finance formula funded kindergarten students at 58 percent of the rate that it paid for older students. This was not enough to cover the costs of tuition-free, all-day kindergarten. Colorado's 178 school districts could choose to offer half-day kindergarten or make up the difference by charging tuition or using other funds. Poudre School District's half-day programs were historically free, and the District charged tuition for full-day programs. With the May 2019 passage of House Bill 1262, the state will now fund a student enrolled in a full-day kindergarten program at the same amount as students enrolled full-time in other grades. Statewide funding of all-day kindergarten was one of Colorado Gov. Jared Polis' earliest campaign promises.

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**Q** So what does that mean for PSD, and my family?

**A** Families will not have to pay PSD kindergarten tuition for the full-day programs (half-day programs are currently free). PSD will, starting in the 2019-20 school year, receive full state funding based upon the total number of students enrolled in all-day kindergarten. It's important to note that the state will still fund half-day students at 58 percent of a full-day student.

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**Q** My child is enrolled in full-day kindergarten in the current 2018-19 school year. Will I get a refund of the tuition I paid?

**A** No. In and prior to the 2018-19 school year, the state funded kindergarten students at roughly half the rate it paid for older students. Under that model, PSD's half-day programs were free, and the District charged tuition for full-day enrollment. Full state funding of all-day kindergarten will be in effect at the start of the 2019-20 school year. Additionally, those who still haven't paid PSD full-day tuition for the 2018-19 school year, as of May 2019, will still need to do so. Those with questions may contact PSD's Finance Department at 970-490-3561.

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**Q** Will half-day programs still be an option for families in the future?

**A** Yes. In the first year of implementation (2019-20 school year), principals at each school will decide whether to offer a dedicated half-day program or offer an embedded model (where half-day and full-day students are in one classroom and half-day students leave early). As of April 2019, only Cache la Poudre, Johnson and Traut Core Knowledge elementary schools offer dedicated half-day programs.

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**Q** When my older kids went to kindergarten and were enrolled in a full-day program, I had to apply for and be approved to receive free or reduced-priced meals. Then I had to complete PSD's Permission to Share Information for Free/Charge Waivers form to be eligible for a fee waiver for full-day kindergarten tuition. My son/daughter is going into full-day kindergarten in the 2019-20 school year. Will I have to go through that process again, since our qualifying economic factors haven't changed?

**A** No. All parents and guardians, regardless of economic status, will be able to enroll their child in PSD's all-day kindergarten (or half-day, if you choose) programs free of charge. Families should still plan to fill out a free and reduced meal application and the District's Permission to Share Information for Fee/Charge Waivers form to be eligible for free and reduced meals, as well as additional fee waivers in PSD. For more information visit [www.psdschools.org/fees](http://www.psdschools.org/fees).

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**Q** If every parent or guardian decided to enroll their child in full-day kindergarten for the 2019-20 school year, will there be enough room in schools for all the kids?

**A** PSD is not anticipating a dramatic increase in full-day enrollment. We expect that PSD will be able to accommodate all students whose families wish to enroll them in full-day kindergarten. We already accommodate about 80 percent of our kindergarten students in a full-day model, and many of our current half-day students are being served in full-day classrooms. Those students simply spend one half of the day in a full-day classroom. As of the October 2018 count, Poudre School District had 1,978 students enrolled in part- and full-time kindergarten.

Visit [www.psdschools.org/kinder](http://www.psdschools.org/kinder) for more information!

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