

Garrard County School District
Full Day Early Childhood Education Plan
2021/2022

Half day is a half year of instruction. Full day is a full year of instruction.

A full-day early childhood educational program would be the beginning point for Garrard County School District (GCSD) students to access high quality learning opportunities across the entire education continuum of services. The state-funded, full-day preschool program would provide a daily environment that is rich in opportunities for the young child to explore and experience a variety of developmental activities.

General goals would include:

- Project-based, inquiry-based, open-ended, child-driven activities in each curriculum area
 - Focus on literacy
- Use of information technologies
- Preparing students for their formal education by early linking to the early childhood curriculum and targeting kindergarten readiness
- Emphasis on the development of “typical” preschool program areas – social skills, large and fine motor skills, communication, social-emotional, cognitive development.

Program Philosophy

Under the basic philosophy of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the GCSD full-day preschool program would operate under the premises that:

- Children learn by interacting with each other in a safe and stimulating environment.
- All children participating will have access to a safe, accessible, high quality early childhood education.
- The curriculum used will be developmentally appropriate and offer hands-on learning experiences.
- Staff will be caring adults that are knowledgeable and well trained in Early Childhood Developmental practices.
- The Preschool will offer a comprehensive program that supports the development of the whole child – this includes the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive domains.
- The Preschool environment will respect and support diversity and will be all-inclusive.

Operations Plan

- Total capacity for the state funded, full-day preschool program would be 100 – 20 per classroom. Two full-day classrooms located at Paint Lick Elementary and Camp Dick Elementary, and one full-day classroom at Lancaster Elementary.
- Additional staffing includes: two preschool teachers with Kentucky Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (IECE) certification, two Preschool Para educators with Child Development Associate (CDA) certification, and three additional Preschool Para educators with CDA certification to remain in compliance with Early Childhood Environment Rating Scales (ECERS) and Kentucky State Guidelines.
- The program would continue to be based on eligibility based on Kentucky State and District Preschool Guidelines (<https://www.garrard.kyschools.us/Administration/200>). However, if spots are vacant,

and a child is not determined eligible, parents will continue to be offered the opportunity for tuition-paid enrollment.

- The teacher to staff ratio for preschool children is 1:10.
- The hours of operations would be based on the elementary school schedule.