The background is a light beige surface with horizontal blue lines, resembling notebook paper. It is decorated with various school supplies: a large yellow triangular ruler at the top left, a red ruler at the bottom left, several colored pencils (red, pink, purple, blue, green) scattered across the top and right, and several crayons (purple, black, red, orange, green) scattered on the left and bottom. Hand-drawn math formulas in brown ink are scattered around:  $x^2 = ab^2$  at the top left,  $\sqrt{a+b}$  at the top center,  $90^\circ$  with a right-angle symbol at the top left,  $e=mc^2$  at the top right, a right-angled triangle with sides 10, 13, and hypotenuse 17 at the middle left, and a list of multiplication facts  $1 \times 1 = 1$ ,  $1 \times 2 = 2$ ,  $1 \times 3 = 3$ ,  $1 \times 4 = 4$  at the bottom left. A magnifying glass with a blue handle and silver frame is positioned in the bottom right corner.

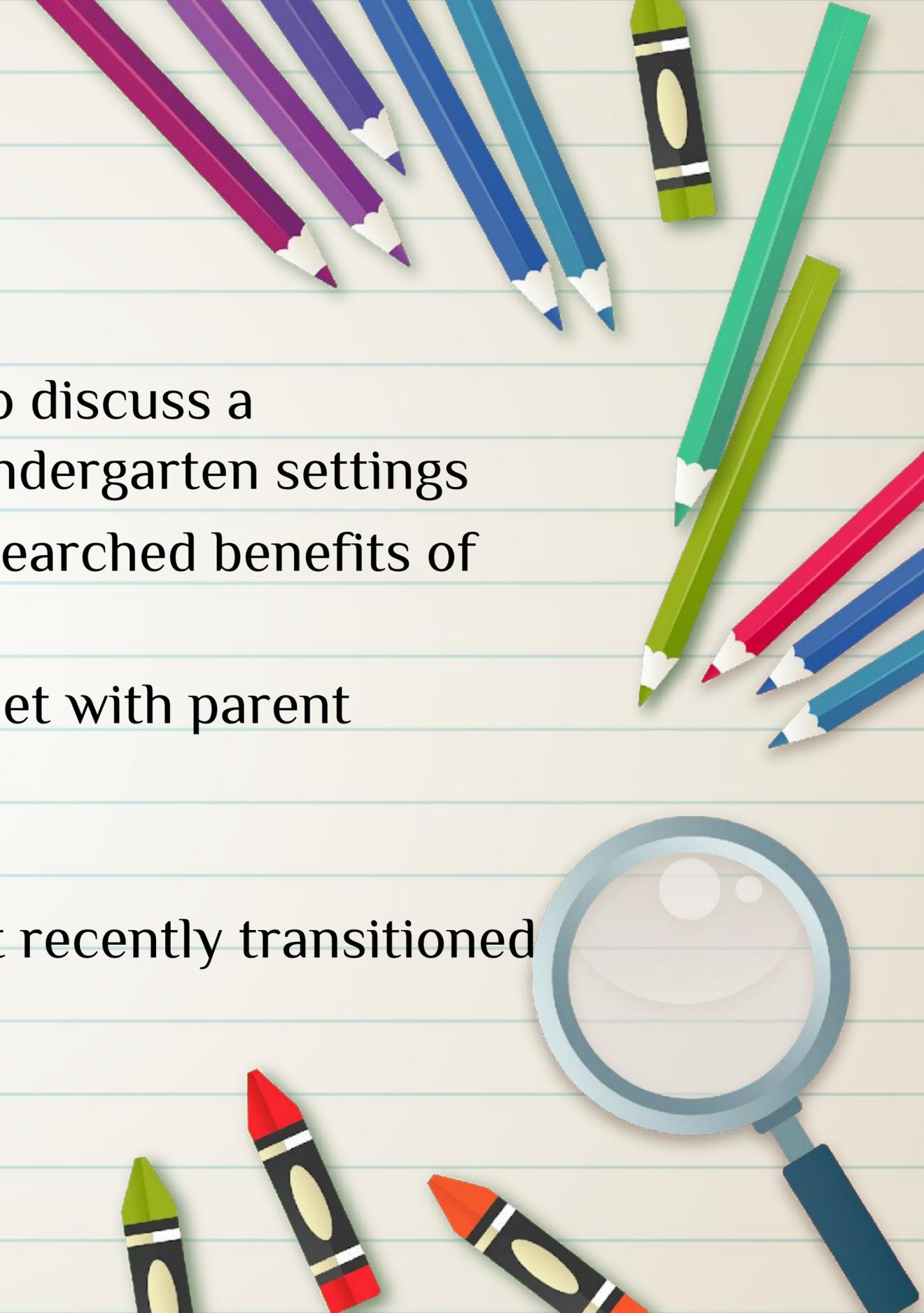
# PROPOSED FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

Verona Public Schools  
May 22, 2018

DR. LANZO, MR. MONACELLI, MR. FREUND, MRS. STUTO

# What steps have been taken in this process?

- Devoted several kindergarten grade level meetings to discuss a comparative analysis of extended day and full day kindergarten settings
- Kindergarten teachers and elementary principals researched benefits of full day kindergarten
- Elementary principals, Mr. Miller, and Dr. Dionisio met with parent advocates of full day kindergarten
- Educating public at Board of Education meeting
- Participate in site visits (Fall 2018) to NJ districts that recently transitioned to full day kindergarten



# What does the research say?

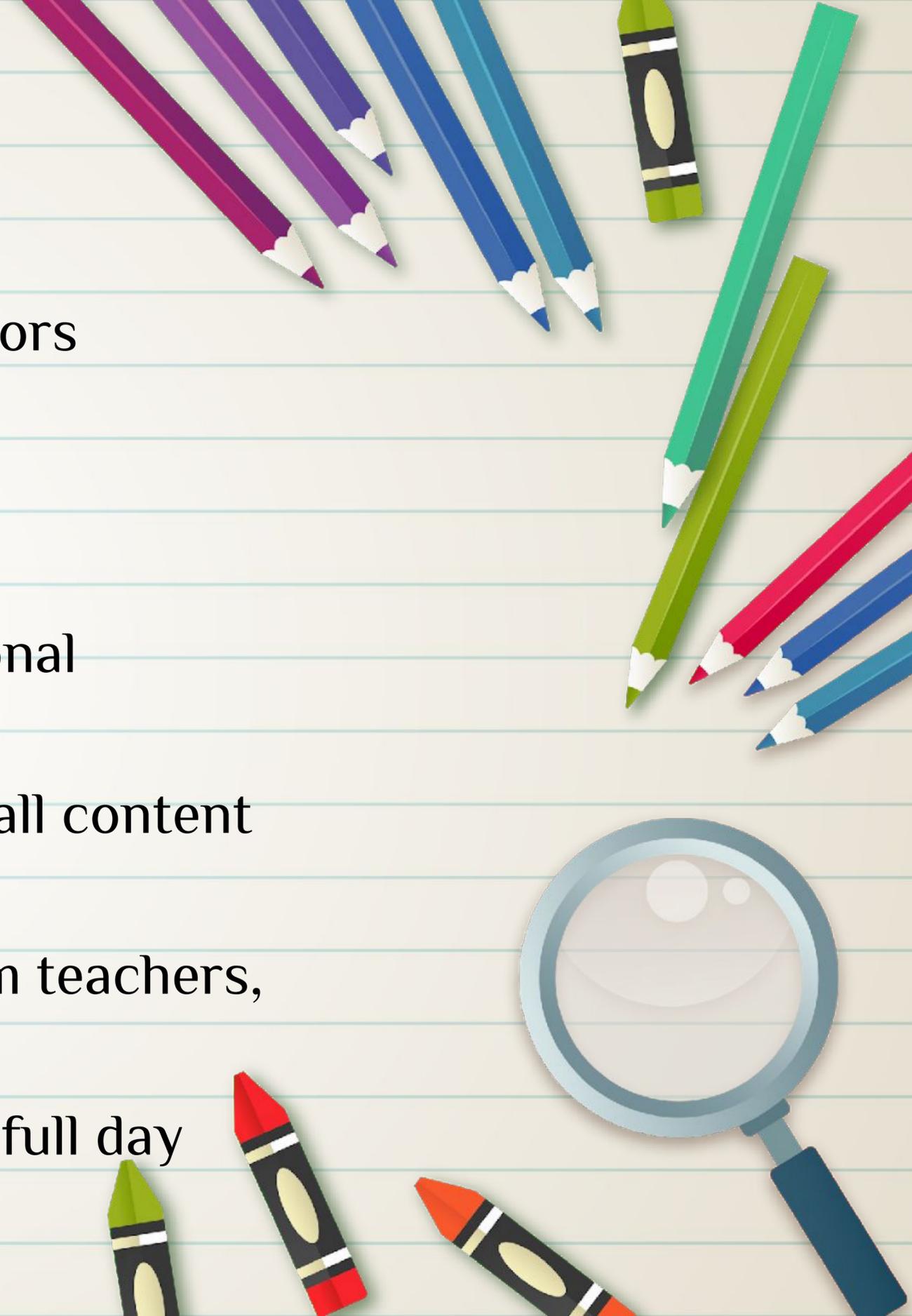
- “Longitudinal data demonstrates that children in full- day classes show greater reading and mathematics achievement gains than those in half -day classes” (Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, US D.O.E., Walston & West, 2004)
- “A full day of learning offers several social, emotional and intellectual benefits to kindergarteners. They have more time to focus on activities, to reflect on activities and to transition between activities.” (NEA Policy Brief, 2015)
- “Students who attend full-day kindergarten have better attendance records, higher grade point average, and are more likely to be on grade level by third grade than students who attend half-day programs” (Weiss & Offenber, 2003)
- “In participating in full-day [kindergarten] eased the transition to first grade, helping children adapt to the demands of a six-hour school day.” (NEA Policy Brief, 2015)

# NJDOE Kindergarten Implementation Guidelines

- “A high quality kindergarten curriculum is anchored in state content standards, principles of child development, and age appropriate teaching strategies.” (Gullo, 2006)
- “Learning centers should be available every day for open exploration and for activities with specific content focus, such as mathematics and language arts literacy.” (NJDOE, 2011)
- “A full day schedule allows more time for formal and informal learning activities across the content areas. It provides ample time for projects, engagement in the arts, individualization, and social interaction with adults and other children. Children have more time to ask questions and explore topics.” (Brewster, 2002; Housden, 1992)

# What are the benefits of full day kindergarten?

- Additional reinforcement of positive social behaviors
- Increased time spent in individualized instruction
- Higher self-esteem and independence
- Greater creativity
- Structured recess and lunch for social and emotional development
- Added time for curricular implementation across all content areas resulting in increased mastery of skills
- Additional time for collaboration among classroom teachers, specialists, related services and special education
- More prepared for the first grade curriculum and full day



# Comparative Program - Extended Day to Full Day

**Equivalent to an Additional 45 Instructional Days Per Year**

	<b>Current Extended Day (Average Weekly Minutes)</b>	<b>Proposed Full Day (Average Weekly Minutes)</b>
Math	150 minutes	225 minutes
Reading Workshop	90 minutes	150 minutes
Writing Workshop	90 minutes	150 minutes
Social Studies/Science	60 minutes	90 minutes

# Sample Kindergarten Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>8:30 – 9:00</b>	Attendance / Unpack / Morning Meeting				
<b>9:00 – 9:30</b>	Reading Workshop	Reading Workshop	Reading Workshop	Reading Workshop	Reading Workshop
<b>9:30 - 10:00</b>	Writing Workshop	Writing Workshop	Writing Workshop	Writing Workshop	Writing Workshop
<b>10:00 – 10:30</b>	PE	Library	Music	PE	Music
<b>10:30 - 11:00</b>	Science or SS	Science or SS	Science or SS	Technology	Conflict Resolution
<b>11:00 - 11:45</b>	Recess/Lunch				
<b>11:45-12:00</b>	Read Aloud	Read Aloud	Read Aloud	Read Aloud	Read Aloud
<b>12:00 - 12:45</b>	Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
<b>12:45 - 1:15</b>	Fundations	Fundations	Fundations	Fundations	Fundations
<b>1:15 - 1:30</b>	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack
<b>1:30 - 2:15</b>	Centers/ Small Group Activities	ART	Centers/ Small Group Activities	Centers/ Small Group Activities	Centers/ Small Group Activities
<b>2:15 - 2:45</b>	Closing Circle/ Pack Up	Closing Circle/ Pack Up	Closing Circle/ Pack Up	Closing Circle/ Pack Up	Closing Circle/ Pack Up

# Districts with Full Day K

- Cedar Grove
- Cresskill\*
- Essex Fells
- Glen Ridge\*
- Kinnelon\*
- Livingston
- Mahwah\*
- Millburn
- Montclair
- Park Ridge\*
- Ridgewood
- Roseland
- West Orange

8 out of 10 New Jersey School Districts Offer Full Day Kindergarten

*\*Comparative Peer Group School District*

# Cost Benefit Analysis

## Current Kindergarten (77%)-November 2018 Election Vote for Increase to Full Day Kindergarten

The Board of Education will seek approval from the District's legal voters to raise an additional \$215,000 per year for full year cost for the expansion of our existing kindergarten program. This proposal will increase our current kindergarten program to a full day program beginning February 2019. The program would be included in the budget in 2019-2020 as a full year program beginning September 2019 for each subsequent year. The additional levy will provide funds for an increase in teachers' salaries, lunch aides, supplies, and textbooks.

The average increase per household would be \$42 per year.

Additional funding includes the following gains:

- Salary costs cover salary increase for kindergarten teachers to 100% (health benefits already provided)
- Addition of two lunch recess aides at each building
- Purchase of additional supplies and materials
- Reallocate and incorporate additional specials and applicable staff

## Pros

- Greater social learning
- Individualized instruction
- Designated recess and lunch periods
- Added time for curricular implementation
- Increased opportunities for play which leads to greater social connections, creativity, and resilience
- Cross-curricular learning
- Increased teacher/staff collaboration time
- Related services and earlier academic interventions
- Preparation for the first grade curriculum and full day

## Cons

- Individual parent opposition to a full day program for developmental reasons
- Additional average household cost \$42 per year



**Thank You!**





## Verona Public Schools

### Full Day Kindergarten Proposal FAQ's - Frequently Asked Questions

#### ***What are the start and end times for full day K in Verona?***

The current kindergarten day is 8:30 am – 12:30 pm. A full day program will follow the same schedule as our elementary students in grades 1-4, which is 8:30 am – 2:45 pm.

#### ***Has New Jersey mandated a full day Kindergarten program?***

At this time Kindergarten in New Jersey is NOT a mandated grade level. Therefore, New Jersey districts have the option to offer Kindergarten at a half day, extended day or full day schedule.

There is a proposed bill for full day kindergarten. This proposed bill if law, mandates that if a school district does not have a full day kindergarten program, and is designated as a district with a large concentration of at risk-students, the district would be required to begin offering a full day kindergarten program by the 2018-19 school year. All other districts would be required to have a full day kindergarten program by the 2019-20 school year.

#### ***Will full day kindergarten students have the opportunity to participate in school sponsored lunches?***

Yes. Full day kindergarten students will have the option to purchase lunch via Pomptonian and or an SCA sponsored lunch.

#### ***Are the majority of New Jersey Public Schools offering full day kindergarten?***

Yes! At this time, approximately 8 out of 10 public school districts offer a full day program.

#### ***Will center time still be an integral part of the kindergarten experience?***

Yes. Kindergarten students will still participate in daily center time exploring various skills through play.



## Verona Public Schools

### Full Day Kindergarten Proposal FAQ's - Frequently Asked Questions

#### ***How do we define a kindergarten center?***

Our kindergarten classrooms have designated areas within the classroom that provide students with opportunities to explore and discover through a self-initiated process. Center activities often include items such as manipulatives, art materials, books, and other developmentally appropriate resources. Learning centers provide students with opportunities to apply curricular topics in hands-on ways. A kindergarten center encourages students to make decisions, share with others, and problem solve independently and as a member of a team.

#### ***Will full day kindergarten students have a world language?***

No. World language in Verona begins at the first grade level. Additional time will be afforded for English-language arts skill acquisition.

#### ***Will kindergarten teachers be considered full time teaching staff?***

Yes. All kindergarten teachers are currently 77% of a full day. Full day kindergarten will result in all of our kindergarten teachers becoming full time teachers in our district.

#### ***Will kindergarten teachers have an increase in pay due to a full day program?***

Yes. Currently the Kindergarten teachers are paid 77% of a full time salary for their assigned step on the negotiated salary guide. All day kindergarten will result in each teacher becoming a full time employee with 100% of their salary at their assigned step.

#### ***Will there be an increase in cost to the district for benefits?***

No. Currently all kindergarten teachers despite their 77% employment status are offered full time benefits.



## Verona Public Schools

### Full Day Kindergarten Proposal FAQ's - Frequently Asked Questions

#### ***How much will full day kindergarten cost per year?***

An additional \$215,000 per year for full year cost for the expansion of our existing kindergarten program includes increase in salaries and additional supplies. The additional funds will be included each year in the budget if approved by the community.

#### ***Will the proposed curriculum be aligned to the current New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS)?***

Yes. The current kindergarten curriculum is directly aligned to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS). This same curriculum will be expanded due to increased time, allowing teachers and students to study topics at a deeper level.

#### ***Will the extra time have a positive impact on student's learning?***

Yes! Studies have revealed a correlation between full day kindergarten and student achievement. Students will be more prepared for the first grade curriculum and full day. Students are more likely to be on grade level by third grade as opposed to their half-day kindergarten peers.

#### ***How will the decision be made to move to full day kindergarten in Verona?***

On election day, Tuesday, November 6, 2018, Verona voters will be asked to approve full day kindergarten in the district. This vote will be done in the form of a second question on the ballot.

#### ***What is the purpose of a second question on the ballot?***

Districts may not exceed the state-imposed 2% cap on budget increases, therefore, the public must vote on them. Districts can add second questions on the ballot when they are proposing a new program that exceeds the 2% cap.

#### ***What would be the tax impact on a yes vote for the second question on full day kindergarten?***

The average increase per household would be \$42 per year.