



HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Broadcast

Dear Haddon Township School District Community,

Please see the most recent updates below from the Haddon Township School District. I hope that you all have a great day and stay dry. Make it a great weekend!

Pre-K Program

In the last few days, I have received a few emails and inquiries regarding the \$500 price increase of our Pre-K program for the 2022-2023 school year, which will bring the annual tuition to \$4200 per student. There are several reasons why this price increase needed to occur. Haddon Township is a K-12 school district, with Pre-k included as a tuition-based program. This program serves students under the umbrella of special education and students who qualify for free and reduced lunch at no cost. The remaining seats in the class are offered to students on a tuition basis to offset the program's costs. **The recent price increase was made so this program can attempt to financially "break even."** When a stand-alone individual program loses money, funds from the remaining K-12 general budget must be utilized to plug the budget deficit. Hence, the district is responsible to all students and taxpayers to implement revenue-neutral programs outside of the K-12 scope i.e.) food services, etc. In the case of Pre-K, Haddon Township does not qualify for any of the current state-funded grant opportunities, nor do we receive any state aid. If you have questions regarding the potential of qualifying for a tuition-free seat based on financial need, please contact me.

2022-2023 Kindergarten Planning

A recent analysis indicates that implementing a traditional Full Day Kindergarten Program will cost approximately **\$500K annually**. The district cannot meet this financial obligation for the next school year or in the projected long term without significant cuts to other remaining programs in the district. However, the idea of a full-day kindergarten program continues to be a topic of high interest among many community stakeholders. As a potential intermediate step, we are attempting to offer all incoming kindergarten students the opportunity to participate in a cost-free full-day program for the next school year. Half of the day would be staffed with a professionally certified teacher focused on academics. **The other half of the day would be staffed with K-Club employees and focused on developmentally appropriate play-based learning and socialization.** There are still several financial unknowns (such as state aid figures) regarding our ability to implement such a program for next year. Still, the community should know what is currently being carefully considered. To be clear, I do not want to overpromise, but please know that **we are contemplating every possible path forward to implement a cost-free full-day program.** I will be sharing more information on this topic over the next 4-6 weeks.

QSAC

This past Wednesday, the New Jersey Department of Education conducted a full QSAC review in Haddon Township. The New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) is the Department of Education's monitoring system for public school districts. The system focuses on monitoring and evaluating school districts in five key components: Instruction & Program, Fiscal,

Governance, Operations, and Personnel. While we will not receive the formal report for a few weeks, this review went exceptionally well, and state officials were very complimentary of our school district. Assistant Superintendent Liz Menning and Business Administrator Jen Gauld prepared all of the documentation required for this process. Board of Education member Ms. Allison Rodman served as the board liaison for QSAC. **Please join me in applauding their efforts, along with the efforts of all of our educators who make Haddon Township such a great place to live, learn, and thrive.**

-Sincerely,

Robert J. Fisicaro, Ed. D. Superintendent