



# Lakewood School District #306

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*"In Partnership for Quality Education"*

July 8, 2015

Dear Key Communicator,

We are pleased to announce that starting this fall each of our elementary schools will offer full-day kindergarten at no cost to our families. We are able to offer this program because our schools qualified for and received a special grant from the State Office of the Superintendent.

On June 30, 2015 the Governor signed the 2015-17 state biennial operating budget that provides funding for 71.88 percent of kindergarten students in the state to receive full-day kindergarten in the 2015-16 school year and 100 percent in the 2016-17 school year. State-funding for full-day kindergarten is being phased in beginning with schools that have the highest percentage of students qualifying for free and reduced-price lunches. Districts are not required to offer full-day kindergarten in eligible schools until the 2017-18 school year.

Lakewood received notification that we are in the 71.88 percent that qualify for full-day kindergarten funding and we are very excited to implement this program beginning with the 2015-16 school year. We have submitted the necessary paperwork to the state and have already received approval for this funding to begin in the fall.

The statutory language regarding state-funded full-day kindergarten indicates that the program is to be "voluntary." This means that districts must provide parents an option of part-day kindergarten. Lakewood will be offering parents the opportunity to opt out of the full-day schedule and if elected their child/student will be attending morning sessions only, Monday through Friday, with parents providing mid-day transportation.

All students already enrolled in kindergarten at Lakewood will automatically be enrolled in the full-day program. Full-day kindergarten will be offered from 8:35 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Monday through Friday at all three elementary schools in Lakewood. For those that have paid a down payment on the previously offered tuition-based kindergarten, refunds will be processed.

The state has established several conditions that districts must follow if they choose to receive state funding for full-day kindergarten. Lakewood's administration is busy planning and preparing for a successful implementation of the full-day kindergarten program. We are very excited about the additional learning opportunities that will be available for our kindergarten students.

If you have any questions please feel free to call Melissa VanZanten, Director of Teaching and Learning at 360 652-4500.

Sincerely,

*Michael P. Mack*  
Michael P. Mack, PhD  
Superintendent