



**The National
Education
Association**

(NEA) recognizes that full-day kindergarten programs close achievement gaps between young children from minority and low-income families and their peers. By providing a solid foundation of learning to children from all backgrounds, full-day kindergarten programs ensure all students' academic, social, and emotional success.

<http://www.nea.org/home/11541.htm>

THE RIO SCHOOL DISTRICT INTRODUCES

FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN



Full Day
Kindergarten



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PURPOSE

RIO'S MOVE TO FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN IN 2014-15 IS BASED ON SEVERAL BASIC PRINCIPLES

Full-Day Kindergarten provides every child with a stronger early foundation for future learning.

Full-Day Kindergarten aims to provide students with more opportunities to develop their English Language skills by increasing time for speaking, listening, reading, and writing during both structured and non-structured activities.

It provides teachers with more time for one to one and small group assistance that can be especially important for young learners.

It provides students with more time to socialize and play with their peers.

In addition, it is intended to support families by reducing the stress of child care and travel demands that often occur with ½ day kindergarten programs.



FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN

Will provide more time for students to learn, play, and become accustom to the classroom and school experience. Research has demonstrated that this makes for smoother transitions to 1st grade and builds a strong foundation for future learning.

SMALLER CLASS SIZES

RIO HAS COUPLED THE MOVE TO FULL-DAY

KINDERGARTEN WITH SMALLER CLASSES.

EACH KINDERGARTEN CLASS WILL BE SMALLER

WITH CLASS SIZES AVERAGING 24 STUDENTS

TO 1 TEACHER WITH MORE ADULT SUPPORT

FROM INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS AND

SPECIALIZED TEACHERS.

THE RIO SCHOOL DISTRICT IS COMMITTED TO

IMPROVING EVERY POSSIBLE ASPECT OF THE

LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR EACH CHILD.

BENEFITS

Research shows that Full-Day Kindergarteners have higher vocabulary, self-regulation, focus, instruction following, and cooperation with peers as compared to ½ day programs.

Research also demonstrates that there is a strong link between play and learning, especially in the areas of problem solving, language, number skills, and social, emotional, and physical skills development.

Full-Day Kindergarten aims to achieve:

- Improved reading, writing, and math skills.
- Smooth transitions to 1st Grade.
- Increased time for social development.
- Increased time for structured and unstructured play.
- Increased time for exploration and investigation.
- Increased time for creative thinking
- Increased time for observing and learning.

Full-Day K supports Families

The Rio School District Full-Day Kindergarten program aims to support families by providing a Full-Day learning environment offering families and their children a safe, nurturing, and engaging learning and development space that allows families to come and go to school as a unit.

LOGISTICS

FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN

The Rio Schools District's Full-Day Kindergarten program begins in late **October**. Kindergarteners attend a shortened day program from August through October. This allows our younger students time to transition to the school environment. Once situated and accustomed to their school, they will make the transition to a Full -Day Schedule.



Each school's start and dismissal times are a little different, so parents should check with schools for their exact time schedules. Once the Full-Day schedule is in full swing, students will start and end their days at the same times as students in grades 1-3. This also means that those who ride the bus will do so with their older siblings and peers.

Please contact your child's school for more details about their kindergarten programs. We look forward to a great year ahead for all our new, incoming students.



RIO'S KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS

Rio's kindergarten teachers are among the best and brightest teachers in the District and have been working on making the new time allotted for learning and play be the most productive and positive it can be.



PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parent involvement is essential at every grade level, however, a child's first experience at school is best developed through a close connection and strong bond between the student, family, classroom, and school.

garden! ... here I come!

