

Kindergarten in Londonderry

A Look at the Prospect of a Full Day program

Why hold this discussion now?

There are several reasons why this discussion is pertinent at this time:

Outside Londonderry

1. **Economic Development**
2. **Growth in State Support and Interest**
3. **Enrollment & Town Competition**

Inside Londonderry

4. **New residents** and **current residents** with young children inquire regularly as to the District's position on Full Day K.
5. **Long-term space needs** study is underway. Significant need for space if the District is to add a full day K program.

Economic Development

In his first 100 days, **Governor Sununu** visited 100 businesses to get their input and ideas on how to attract more businesses and high paying jobs to the state of New Hampshire.

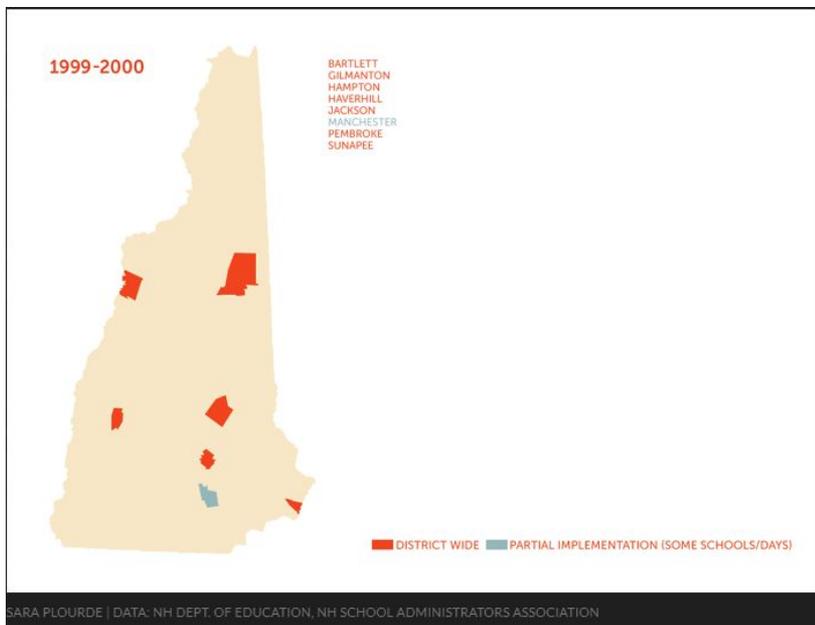
“We heard from businesses who stressed how important issues like full-day kindergarten and school choice are to the parents that they employ,” the report states.(p.5) <https://www.governor.nh.gov/news-media/press-2017/documents/100-businesses-100-days.pdf>

This report was released in April 2017 that coincided with the legislative push for Full Day Kindergarten that was successful.

Full Day Kindergarten is an expectation for parents and helps the business community attract and keep their employees.

Growth in State Support and Interest

In **June of 2017**, the legislature passed funding for Full Day Kindergarten with Keno funds that capitalized on years of growth for full day Kindergarten in the State.



<https://www.nhpr.org/post/data-map-how-all-day-kindergarten-has-taken-hold-nh#stream/0>

Growth in State Support and Interest: Our Neighboring and Peer Districts

Neighbor and Peer Districts that Have Full Day K	Neighbor and Peer Districts that Have a Tuition Full Day K or Tried and Failed to Get Full Day K	Neighbor and Peer Districts that Do Not Have Full Day K
Litchfield Manchester Nashua Derry Merrimack Concord Bow Amherst Hollis-Brookline Exeter Windham (2019-20)	Bedford - ½ Day Tuition - \$5250 for K-Plus Program Hudson - lost warrant article March 2019 Hooksett - lost construction project vote March 2018	Auburn Pelham Chester Goffstown - New Boston

Enrollment and Town Competition

As our neighbors and peer districts increasingly have full day kindergarten programs or options - what will this competition mean for Londonderry?

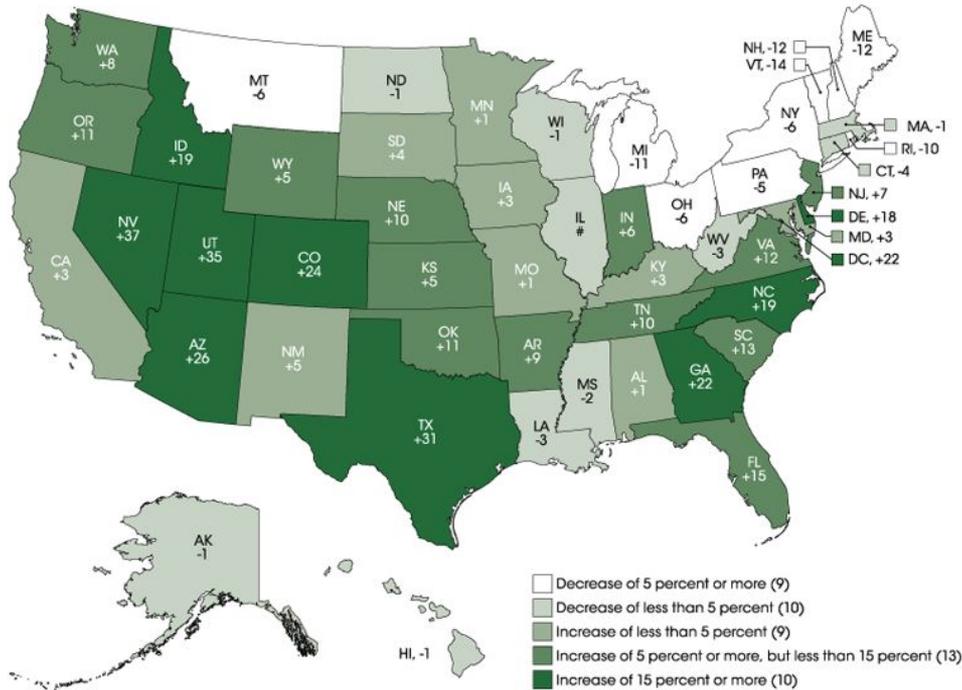
Governor Sununu's Thoughts and Advice:

“Full-day kindergarten is good for children and families, and a critical tool in retaining our future workforce. It is a priority for many when considering the quality of a community’s public education and when choosing a place to raise their families. It is not just a talking point, but a real plan that delivers better outcomes for kids across the state.”

[Building a 21st Century Education System](#) (Sept. 2017)

Enrollment and Town Competition - National Picture

Figure 3. Percentage change in public elementary and secondary school enrollment, by state: Fall 2000 to fall 2015

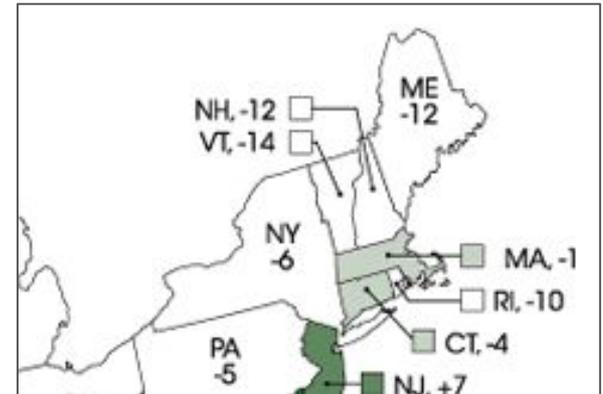


Rounds to zero.

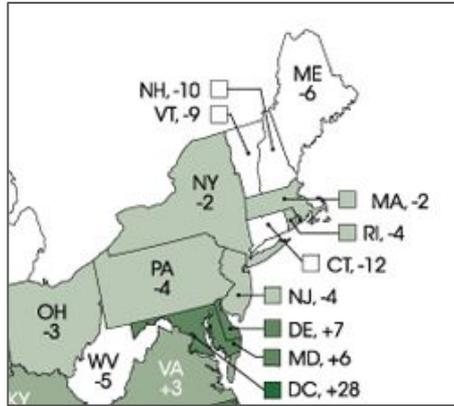
NOTE: Categorizations are based on unrounded percentages. Prekindergarten enrollment for California and Oregon were imputed for fall 2015.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Survey of Public Elementary/ Secondary Education," 2000-01 through 2015-16. See *Digest of Education Statistics 2017*, [table 203.20](#).

New Hampshire **lost 12%** of its public education enrollment between 2000 to 2015 based on data from the National Center for Education Statistics.



Enrollment and Town Competition - National Picture - Future Projections



Between 2015 to 2027, the same organization projected another **10% decrease** in enrollment for NH, overall.

Among our peer districts and neighbors, here is how enrollment has changed between 2014 and 2018 as a reference:

Bow +21%

Windham +3%

Hollis +2%

Bedford +2%

Manchester -8%

Exeter -6%

Merrimack -4%

Londonderry -3%

Derry/Pinkerton -3%

Nashua -2%

Amherst -2%

Enrollment and Town Competition

Over the next three years, the Town of Londonderry projects we will see increased enrollment of 280 students as a result of new development in town.

However, the data on the prior slides shows we are competing for scarce resources - new families and students - in Northern New England.

There are many reasons millennial families will choose a town to buy a house in and settle, with full day kindergarten being part of the mix.

We need to continue to be an attractive community for new families to move into town and at the same time turn over the housing stock of any baby boomers that intend to leave.

Inside Londonderry - Full Day K Interest

As stated earlier, potential new residents, new residents, and current residents are always inquiring about “Londonderry’s plan for full day kindergarten” as they have watched surrounding communities and the state make plans for it or investments.

BUT we have space issues in Moose Hill not related to full day kindergarten.
(That we will discuss very soon)

But before we get there, let’s look at the Academic and Social-Emotional reasons that drive the interest in full day kindergarten as well . . .

Primary Education

Grades K-2

The purpose of primary education is to establish foundational skills that will allow students to learn other materials going forward.

1. Literacy and Numeracy Skills
2. Social and Academic Skills
3. Cognitive and Physiological Development

Original intent of K programs

Early childhood education programs in the US date back to the 1860's, formal schooling for young children was:

- Play based. No formal curriculum.
- Learning through songs, reading books in areas of interest.
- Socialization with peers, introduction to school.
- Partial day program originally intended for shorter attention span for younger children.
- Full day evolves from increased academic expectations, working parents.
- In 2015, approximately 75% of K students in the US attend full day programs.

Kindergarten in New Hampshire

The past ten years have seen considerable changes to the K programs across the state. A few significant developments:

- In 2009, NH becomes the 50th state to require K programs
- Declining enrollment across the State creates available functional capacity and staffing for many districts to offer Full-Day programs.
- Over 90% of K aged students in NH currently have access to a full-day public program of some kind.
- Increasing academic standards results in a 'push down' of reading and numeracy expectations into kindergarten curricula.
- Gov. Sununu expresses support for Full Day K programs by funding State adequacy at full rate through 'Keno-garten' program.

Current Londonderry Kindergarten Program

Half-Day Program at Moose Hill School

- Eight AM and Seven PM Sessions of 2 Hours 35 Minutes
- 8:45 - 11:20 AM and 12:30 - 3:05 PM
- Next year: 8:37 - 11:20 AM and 12:30 - 3:13
- Curriculum focus is Emergent Literacy and Numeracy, w/ a play-based component.
- Challenge to the program is the developmental and academic range of abilities at which our students enter the K program.
- Another challenge is that national and state curriculum shifts, have made the expectations for K,1, and 2 much more challenging for students.

What would a full day look like?

Full day Kindergarten is generally the same length of day as Grades 1-5.

- Reading and Math instruction generally comes earlier in the day when students' energy and attention are higher.
- Recesses and Movement Breaks are built in to the day to help students maintain attention and focus.
- Remedial and enrichment programs are added
- Lunch period is added.
- Specialists periods are added to give teachers required lunch and preparation
- 'Free Play' and Centers give students time for discovery and social experiences. "Play Based" learning is increased.

Advantages of Full Day Programs to Half Day Programs:

Academic

- Higher achievement for low-income and Title I Students
- Higher reading scores in early grades.
- More time for individualized instruction and independent reading.
- Higher grade retention.

Non- Academic

- More time for free play
- More time for socialization and interaction with children and adults
- Improved social skills among disadvantaged / low income children
- Access to breakfast and lunch
- More independence, self-esteem.

Critiques of Full-Day Programs Compared to Half Day Programs:

Academic:

- More academic instruction is pushed down from first grade to kindergarten.
- Higher expectations of first graders
- Less time for informal learning.
- Less focus on learn-by-doing, and more emphasis on worksheets and teacher-led instruction
- No long-term academic benefits

Non-Academic

- Increased fatigue, irritability, and aggression
- Separation anxiety
- Loss of confidence because students are pushed to do work for which they are not developmentally prepared
- Poor role models in lunch room or playground

Impact of LEEP on Kindergarten:

The primary impact is upon the availability of space in the Moose Hill facility.

Advantages: Shared student resources, staff, transitioning between the programs, and the physical space is adapted to the needs of young learners.

Disadvantages: Disproportionate growth in enrollment in LEEP Programs over the past 10 years places demands on space.

Fiscal Impact: Transition to Full Day

While specific costs would vary greatly based upon the configuration, type, and requirements of a program, the following factors would have to be included in any plan that we might consider:

Initial costs: one time expenses

- Physical space: adding functional capacity
 - 7 Classrooms
 - 3 specialist classrooms
 - Lunchroom
 - Large movement space (MPR?)
- Equipment and learning materials
 - New program development
- Technology Hardware
- Program Development Time (Summer)

Ongoing costs of program

- Program staffing increases:
 - Classroom teachers
 - \$75,878 per (current loaded)
 - Classroom assistants
 - 6 hours /day /classroom
- Program additions: Specialists
 - Add materials (Current \$54/Student)
 - Cost is budgeted by material /student /yr.
- Lunch and B&G Staffing
- Nursing and Counseling coverage
- Maintenance of Tech Hardware

Differences in State Funding

State Adequacy:

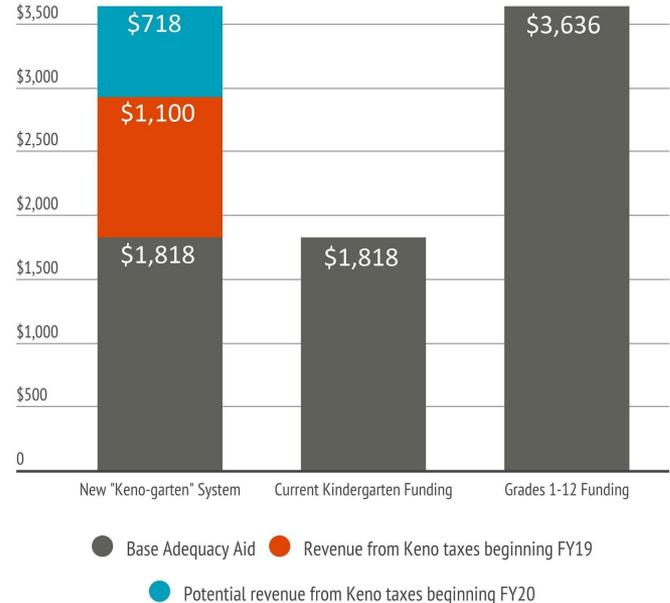
Full adequacy is \$3,636 per ADM.

K adequacy has been \$1,818 per ADM

Increased to full in districts offering free full-day kindergarten.

Keno has fallen short of funding this so far. Difference is being supplemented by the State Education Trust Fund.

How N.H. Plans to Fund Full-Day Kindergarten with Keno



*The **\$1,100 per-pupil grant** is guaranteed beginning FY19, regardless of how much revenue Keno taxes raise.

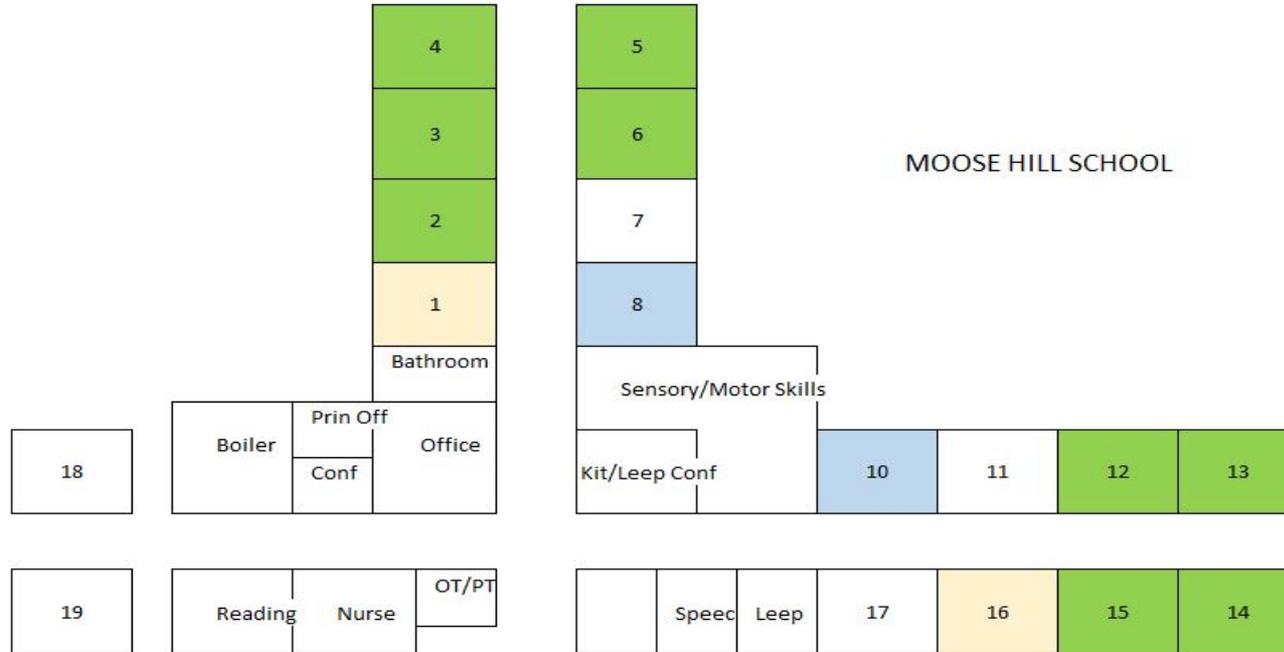
*Only districts offering full-day kindergarten programs will receive additional money under the new system.

Physical plant: What changes would be needed?

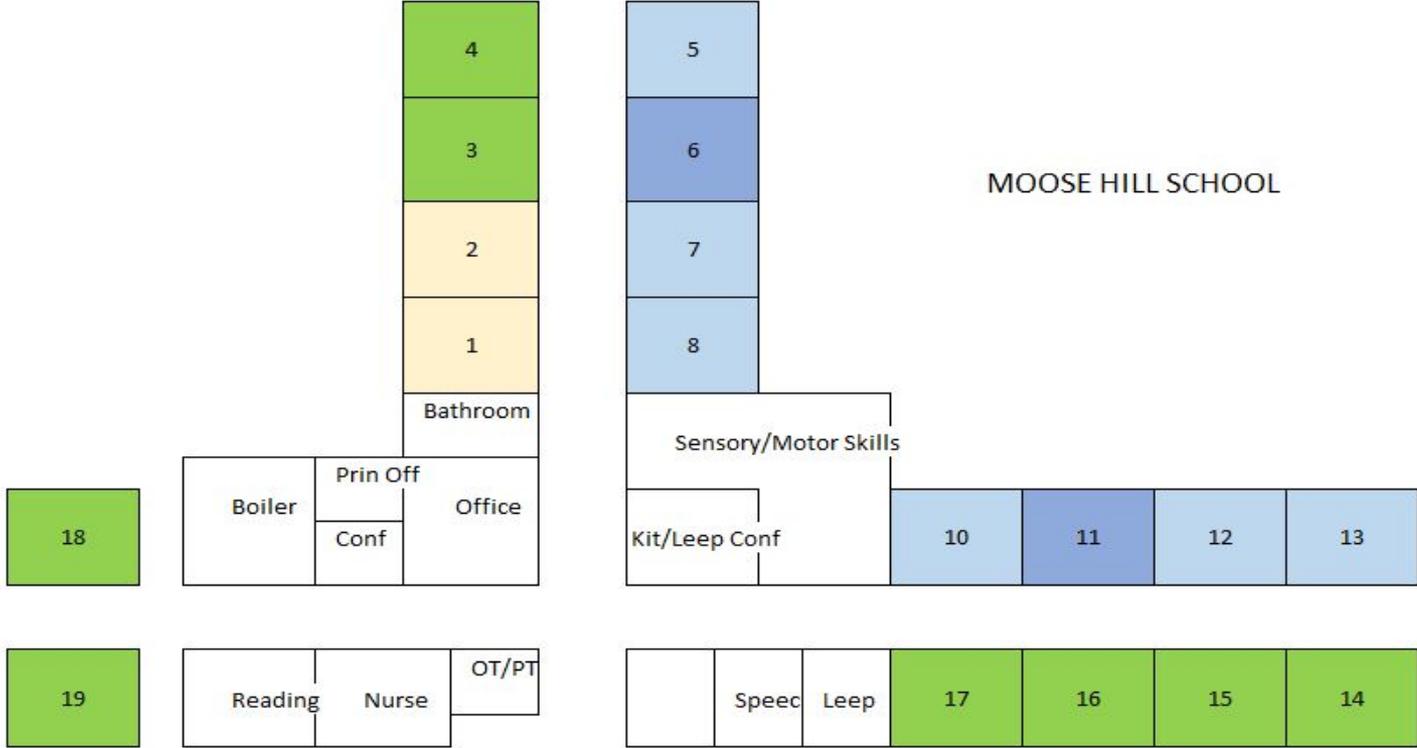
Current Moose Hill building would not accommodate FDK.

- Lunch room and kitchen facilities
- Indoor activity space (Multipurpose room, gym, etc.)
- 'Specialists' - classroom teachers require prep and lunch
- A Dedicated Library Media Center space would free up a classroom, and provide long-term

Moose Hill when it opened in 2001: 319 K Students, 50 LEEP, No FRIENDS yet



Moose Hill Usage Today: 222 K Students, 134 LEEP, 14 Friends



What are some of the possible Moose Hill School facility adaptations?

We have explored possible adaptations for the Moose Hill facility in the event that there is a move to add a full day program. Possible configurations include:

1. A simple addition to the Moose Hill building including core infrastructure modifications for full day.
2. A larger reconfiguration of grade levels to bring Grade 1 to Moose Hill as well. Possibly alleviates need for a future elementary school.
3. Addition of a dedicated LEEP wing

Moose Hill Full Day Addition

Smaller addition - \$10.2 M

Minimal space required for a full day program and LEEP program.

Adds space for lunchroom, library, and 10 classrooms. Classroom space is not specified relative to function.

No impact upon functional capacity at the 3 elementary schools.



Options for further consideration:

- K-1 Configuration / addition (Illustration): Allows for Full Day K, LEEP and Grade 1, possibly alleviates future school building.
- Further research regarding a full-day option with a dedicated LEEP Addition to Moose Hill
- Is there merit to a voluntary, fee-based extended day program? (Bedford)
 - Supplemental Enrichment program V. Remedial program
- Previous discussion of moving K to the elementary schools.
 - Currently near functional capacity. Would require reconfiguration, additions.
 - Repurposing of Moose Hill School? (LEEP, ES restructure w/ MTS?)
 - Accelerate development of 4th elementary school?

Matters for Discussion Going Forward:

- Is the District interested in pursuing any further research regarding a change to the current Kindergarten structure?
- If so, are there specific models that are of interest? (Extended day, optional tuition based, Enrichment/Remedial)
- What information can we (Admins) provide to inform your discussions?
- We will be re-charging the Facilities Study Group to develop contingencies for the options under consideration by the Board.