



LEE'S SUMMIT  
R-7 SCHOOLS  
*Learning for Life*

# All-day kindergarten to begin with 2009-10 school year at all schools

*Voters approve April 2008 no-tax-increase bond issue by 72-percent majority to fund classrooms*

The Lee's Summit R-7 School District Board of Education approved the implementation of an all-day kindergarten program at all elementary schools, beginning with the 2009-10 school year. The extended program was contingent upon passage of a 2008 no-tax-increase bond issue that would fund the additional classrooms needed to make the change from a half-day to a full-day program. Voters approved this bond issue on April 8, 2008, and all-day kindergarten will begin with the 2009-10 school year. The Board of Education decision and election followed a lengthy study that involved a number of R-7 employees, parents and community members.

## **Involving the community**

The R-7 All-Day Kindergarten Study Team met throughout the 2002-03 school year to study the feasibility of offering an all-day program. The team examined the educational impact on students and the financial impact of an expanded program. In addition, the team sought input from the community through two public forums. Following this extensive study, the team recommended that the all-day program be implemented. Due to budget constraints and classroom-space issues at



## **Advantages of all-day kindergarten for students**

Full-day kindergarten allows children and teachers more time to explore topics in depth, provides for greater continuity of day-to-day activities and creates an environment that favors a child-centered, developmentally appropriate approach.

Research supports the effectiveness of all-day kindergarten programs, which offer academic and behavioral benefits for younger children. Full-day instruction can be more relaxed and geared to students' needs. Teachers also have more opportunities to accurately assess student progress, and students make an easier transition to the full-day first-grade program.

In addition to offering more time for instruction, a full-day program provides more opportunities for:

- Daily center activities, dramatic play and movement activities.
- Activities for small and large groups.
- Class meetings and character-education lessons.
- Videotaping and watching performances.
- Art, music, physical education, library-media centers and recess.
- Relationship building among students, parents and the teacher.
- Social skills development.
- A stable and consistent routine.

An all-day program will also improve attendance among the kindergarten students.

that time, the Board of Education did not take action on this recommendation and set it aside for future consideration.

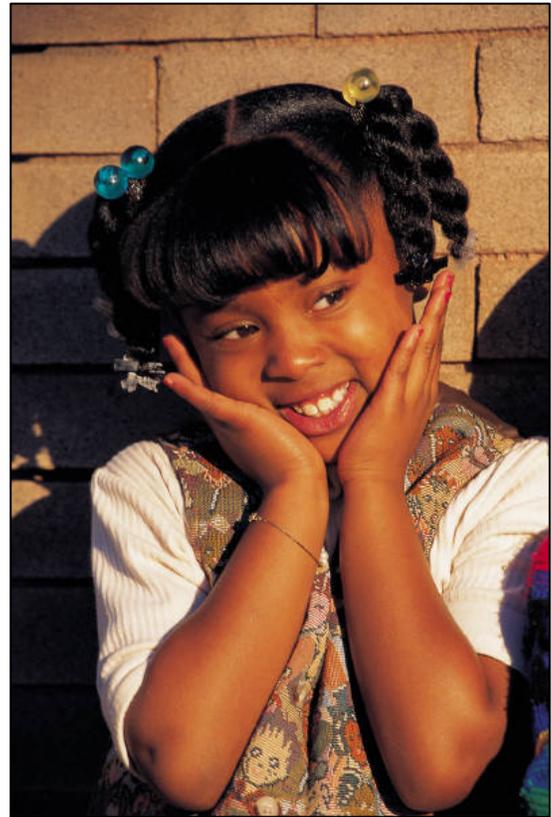
Since the tabling of the All-Day Kindergarten Study Team's recommendation, R-7 School District staff members continued to look into the possibility of offering an all-day program. Implementation of all-day kindergarten by the 2009-10 school year is also one of the objectives included in the R-7 School District's 2006-2011 Comprehensive School Improvement Plan, developed by a broad-based team of district staff, parents, citizens and members of the Board of Education.

### **Parents continue to provide feedback**

In addition to these recommendations and endorsements, all-day kindergarten has been requested by many families over a number of years. The majority of districts within the metropolitan area and the state are also currently offering an all-day program.

### **State funding would cover significant portion of expansion cost**

Through reimbursement from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for the additional hours kindergarten students will spend in the classroom, the state will provide a significant portion of funding needed to implement the all-day kindergarten program. In addition, the district will reduce some expenditures by eliminating the mid-day kindergarten bus routes. In all, it is estimated that adding the all-day program will cost the district approximately \$175,000 for the first year.



### **Preparing for all-day kindergarten**

Thanks to voter approval of the April 2008 no-tax-increase bond issue, construction is beginning on classroom additions needed for the all-day kindergarten program. An R-7 School District team is also making plans in preparation for the expanded program. This team will revise the kindergarten curriculum to accommodate a full day, identify additional staff needed for the expansion and help develop training to be conducted during the 2008-09 school year to prepare kindergarten teachers for the new schedule.

Additional information about all-day kindergarten within the Lee's Summit R-7 School District will be provided to parents throughout the 2008-09 school year.

### **R-7 School District Mission Statement**

Our mission is to prepare each student for a diverse and rapidly changing world through excellent educational opportunities in a safe and caring environment.