

# Budget Case for Full-Day K (corrected)

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## 1.

*Cancelling full-day kindergarten can't be the best way to come up with savings.*

### Big Effect

Finding less than one-half of one percent in the budget for full-day kindergarten means *doubling* service for eight percent of students.

### Financial Consequences

Cancelling full-day K means:

- Losing \$63,207 in state aid
- Losing \$40,400 state grant
- Losing \$71,280 in bus savings (money that could go to education goes to moving children around)

*That's \$174,887 in costs to save \$126,784 or \$189,991 (depending how you look at it), without even considering the cost to the students deprived of full-day kindergarten and their families.*

## 2.

*The school department should be able to come up with the money within its budget.*

### Special Education Savings

Last year, the school department received an increase of \$475,038 in local funding for its operating budget, including an increase of \$24,052 for out-of-district special education costs (account #55630).

It turned out that the district had 16 fewer such students and was able to transfer exactly \$600,000 out of that account. Some portion of that money should be available for full-day kindergarten.

### Supplies

The school department has not spent its full "supplies" budget in nine years, whether it had an overall surplus or deficit. The average underspending during those years was \$140,309.

The extra in 2013-2014 was the smallest in five years, but at \$88,892, it was still almost half of what's needed to fund full-day kindergarten.

## 3.

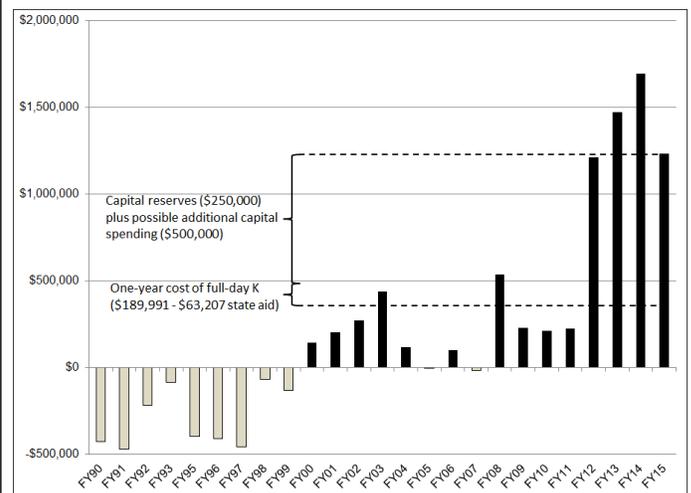
*Full-day kindergarten in 2015-2016 would essentially be a one-time expense, and school department reserves are at a 25-year high (probably longer).*

### One-Time Expense

State law (RIGL 16-7.2-7(c)) already provides full state aid funding for full-day K in the 2016-2017 school year, which the school department projects to be almost exactly the additional expense. Finding the money for 2015-2016 does not create unfunded operational costs for the future.

### Historical Reserves

The school department's surplus reserves are running higher than they've been in a quarter century. Even spending \$750,000 on capital expenses *and* funding full-day kindergarten without finding a dime of other savings in the budget, reserves would still be high by historical standards.



Even if the school department designates \$250,000 for capital expenses, another \$500,000 for state-reimbursed capital spending, and \$126,784 for all-day kindergarten, it will have \$356,543 in reserves remaining on its books.

## 4.

*Town reserves cover the school department, too.*

The 3% reserves that the charter requires are calculated including the school budget. An emergency for the school department is an emergency for the whole town, and in the current fiscal year, total municipal and school reserves are almost 10% of the town's total appropriated budget.