

APRIL 25, 2019

# Full-Day Kindergarten Facility Grants Budget Proposal

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PRESENTED TO: Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 1  
On Education  
Hon. Richard D. Roth, Chair



LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

# Background

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## Most Districts Operate Full-Day Kindergarten Programs

- The state requires school districts to operate kindergarten programs.
- Districts determine whether to run part-day or full-day programs.
- Part-day programs operate between three to four hours per day, whereas full-day programs operate more than four hours per day.
- In 2017-18, 71 percent of districts ran only full-day programs, 19 percent ran only part-day programs, and 10 percent ran a mix of the two.

## State Provided \$100 Million for Kindergarten Facility Grants in 2018-19

- The grants are primarily intended to help districts get the new facilities needed to convert part-day programs to full-day programs.
- The grants also can be used for replacing or renovating existing kindergarten classrooms that do not meet certain state regulations.
- Districts facing challenges raising local facility funds and districts with higher proportions of low-income students receive priority for funding.
- First application round in January 2019 was oversubscribed, with 70 districts requesting \$262 million for 262 projects. The state is releasing \$37.5 million in first-round grant funding, with a second application round planned for May to award remaining funds.

## School Facility Program (SFP) Provides Funding to Build and Renovate Facilities

- The SFP is the main state program supporting K-12 school facilities. Under the program, the state and school districts share the cost of building new facilities and modernizing old ones.



# Governor's Proposal

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## Governor's Budget Provides \$750 Million for More Kindergarten Facility Grants

- Funding is one-time, non-Proposition 98 General Fund.
- Proposed grants would operate similarly to current grants, except districts would be allowed to use any project savings on professional development and instructional materials to support full-day kindergarten. (Under the current facility grant rules, districts are only allowed to use project savings for other facility priorities.)



# Assessment

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## Current Round of Facility Grants Is Not Notably Furthering Core State Objective

- Most districts applying (76 percent) for grants already run only full-day programs.
- Our analysis of the districts most likely to receive funding found a similarly high share already run only full-day programs.
- If facility grants were expanded, most of the additional funding likewise could go towards districts already running full-day programs.

### Significant Majority of Initial Applicants Already Run Full-Day Programs

*(Dollars in Millions)*

Programs Operated	Districts Applying		Projects Submitted		Funding Requested	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Amount	Percent
Full-day only	53	76%	121	46%	\$135	52%
Full-day and part-day	9	13	100	38	86	33
Part-day only	8	11	41	16	41	16
<b>Totals</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$262</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Districts Operate Part-Day Programs for Reasons Beyond Facility Constraints

- Teachers may prefer part-day programs because they lead class for fewer hours while assisting other teachers for the remainder of the day. Some parents may prefer shorter school days for their children.

## Many Districts Have Used Existing State and Local Fund Sources to Increase Full-Day Programs

- Over the past decade, the share of students enrolled in full-day programs grew from 43 percent to 70 percent.
- Growth in districts offering full-day kindergarten programs over the years suggests that existing state and local fund sources have been sufficient for most districts to offer full-day programs.



## Recommendations

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### **Recommend Against Funding More Kindergarten Facility Grants at This Time**

- Revisit proposal in 2020-21 after evaluating all the applications submitted for initial \$100 million.
- Target any additional grants to those districts running part-day programs due to facility constraints.
- If interested in creating an even stronger incentive for full-day kindergarten programs, consider reducing the part-day per-student rate under the Local Control Funding Formula. (Part-day and full-day programs currently receive the same rate.) Weigh the tradeoffs carefully, however, as some parents prefer their children attend part-day programs.

