

District 90 Kindergarten Program Review – Perception Survey (December 2022)

Primary/Secondary Themes Identified from Qualitative Responses - Questions 31, 33, 34 ***(For additional context please reference questions 15, 23, 26, 30)***

The following questions from the survey instrument offered respondents the option to provide qualitative feedback and yielded substantial data. For each question, the KPR survey team collaborated to identify the primary theme, additional prominent themes, and other recurring themes to the degree possible. Though this thematic approach blurs the specific feedback details, it provides a more efficient way for individuals to consider large amounts of qualitative data. The KPR survey team apologizes in advance for any oversights or omissions that may have occurred from processing the qualitative data through a thematic approach but hope this document provides a useful summary.

Question 31: If any, please identify program elements that you believe the current D90 kindergarten program may be lacking. Please check any that apply (or specify “other elements”):

PRIMARY THEME:

- The predominant desired improvement for the D90 kindergarten program would be a shift to full-day structure.

ADDITIONAL PROMINENT THEMES:

- Increased instructional time in kindergarten is perceived as vital for student success.
- The current program model is perceived as inequitable for stakeholders across the community.

OTHER RECURRING THEMES:

- It is perceived that specific curriculum elements (i.e. science, social emotional learning, play) are not provided to an optimal level in the current program model.
- There is a perceived need for additional support for diverse circumstances of families (i.e. transportation, costs, scheduling, social emotional considerations).

Question 33: Please use this comment box to provide additional information you would like to share about any of the questions asked previously:

PRIMARY THEME:

- It is perceived across stakeholder groups that increased instructional and social-emotional needs require expanding the current kindergarten model to a full-day program.

ADDITIONAL PROMINENT THEMES:

- The current kindergarten model is perceived to put District 90 students at a competitive disadvantage and is outdated.
- It is perceived that the resources available to our school community can support the implementation of a full day program, if identified as a priority.
- District 90 kindergarten teachers are perceived as outstanding.
- There is a perception that critical kindergarten foundations are essential for academic success but difficult to ensure by supplementing at home or with complementary programs.

OTHER RECURRING THEMES:

- Alternate kindergarten options are available in the community for families desiring a full-day program; however, they are often selected specifically because D90 offers half-day programming.
- It is perceived by many individuals that District 90 should provide a full-day program like similarly situated communities immediately.
- Expanded kindergarten programming will have implications for finances and facilities that must be considered.

Question 34: *Do you have a relevant story or personal experience pertaining to kindergarten in District 90 that you would like to share? If so, please insert it in the comment box:*

PRIMARY THEME:

- It is perceived by many individuals that the current half-day kindergarten program is not optimal and must be expanded.

ADDITIONAL PROMINENT THEMES:

- Many families enroll in private/alternate programs in lieu of District 90 to access full-day kindergarten programming.
- District 90 kindergarten teachers are perceived as dedicated and excellent but do not have adequate time to provide all that is needed in an optimal program.
- The current kindergarten program model is perceived as outdated and requiring improvement.

OTHER RECURRING THEMES:

- Many families move to River Forest and are surprised and disappointed by the current half-day program model; others do not move to River Forest because full day is not offered.
- It is perceived that the current half-day program model does not meet the learning needs of many students fully.