

4K Approved to Begin in the Appleton Area School District 2013-2014 School Year

BENEFITS OF 4K FOR APPLETON

In our efforts to ensure that all children are reading at grade level by the end of third grade, the AASD has taken another step to reach this goal. The implementation of 4K programming will provide equal access to high quality early learning programs for children and families in the AASD. Research has shown that high quality early learning programs close achievement gaps, build early literacy skills and strengthen social and emotional development for children.

COMMUNITY-BASED COLLABORATIVE 4K MODEL

Research supports the benefits of consistent care givers for children, reduction in the number of transitions in a day for young children, and the importance of learning in developmentally appropriate settings. Given this information, in addition to space limitations within the District's elementary schools, 84% of the planned 4K sessions will be held in existing community-based child care sites.

- ✓ The District will provide consistent, high-quality professional development for all 4K teachers and paraprofessionals to support the 2.5 hour district 4K programming per day.
- ✓ AASD will pay a per-student allocation to the community-based 4K sites to provide classroom space, certified 4K teacher(s), trained paraprofessional(s), qualified substitute teachers as needed, and all materials needed to deliver the 4K curriculum.
- ✓ Approved Community Partners will sign a one-year contract with the District.
- ✓ Community sites must meet specific criteria as outlined in the contract.
- ✓ The District's 4K Coordinator will monitor all sites.
- ✓ The 4K Leadership Team and planning subcommittees are made up of District staff, parents, community providers, and community members who have worked together to develop all aspects of the AASD 4K program. This collaborative leadership will continue to support 4K programming in Appleton.

4K FUNDING

At their meeting on Friday, December 21, 2012, the Appleton Area School District Board of Education approved the following motion:

4K Funding – Use of General Fund Balance not to exceed \$2.3 million for first year implementation of a 4-year old Kindergarten Program in AASD

SUSTAINABILITY

The State of Wisconsin provides funding for the operational costs associated with 4K programs. Presently, 378 out of 425 school districts, including most local districts, have state-funded 4K programs. The challenge for districts is providing the necessary startup funds to begin 4K programs. Year one startup costs for Appleton amount to \$2.3 million.

The AASD takes great pride in being fiscally responsible. We are committed to the funding to start a 4K program for our students as well as to maintain our current programming. In year two and beyond, 4K will be self-sustaining through State funding. If State funding to districts for 4K programming is reduced or eliminated, the AASD will reconsider funding for the program. This budget review process occurs annually for all District programs.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS

For more information, please check out the following link:

<http://www1.aasd.k12.wi.us/sp/programs/birthtofive/Pages/4K.aspx>

For more information: please contact Suzette Preston at prestonsuzette@asd.k12.wi.us