

Name:

Date:

School Committees in Action: Littleton Case Study

Objective:

Students will identify and explain school committee roles and responsibilities through a recent school committee question about full day kindergarten.



Directions:

Read the two Littleton Independent articles on the issue of full day kindergarten. Then, read the summary of full day kindergarten.



Tuition Rates for Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK) in Massachusetts

FDK tuition 2019-2020 school year		FDK enrollment 2018-2019 school year	
Districts charging tuition for FDK	38	Percent of kindergarten students in FDK	96.4
Average tuition	\$3,454	Number of districts offering kindergarten*	316
Tuition range	\$1,750-\$5,000	At least one FDK classroom	314
		Half-day kindergarten only	2 (Concord, Needham)
		<small>*Includes charter schools</small>	
		FDK districts offering:	
		District-wide FDK	290
		Partial FDK, not district-wide	24

District	Tuition for 2019-2020 school year
Acton-Boxborough	\$4,500
Andover	\$3,575
Belmont	\$3,500
Beverly	\$2,100
Braintree	\$3,250
Cohasset	\$3,500
Duxbury	\$4,000
Easton	\$3,500
Groton-Dunstable	\$5,000
Hanover	\$3,750
Harvard	\$3,750
Hingham	\$3,750
Holliston	\$3,475
Littleton	\$1,750
Marblehead	\$3,516
Medfield	\$3,500
Millis	\$3,150
Nashoba RSD	\$3,331
Newburyport	\$3,800

District	Tuition for 2019-2020 school year
North Attleborough	\$3,000
North Reading	\$4,250
Norwell	\$4,000
Pentucket	\$3,800
Reading	\$4,450
Saugus	\$2,700
Scituate	\$3,500
Sharon	\$3,100
Shrewsbury	\$3,600
Topsfield	\$3,400
Triton RSD	\$2,950
Tyngsborough	\$3,750
Walpole	\$1,800
Wayland	\$2,700
Westborough	\$3,400
Westford	\$4,200
Weymouth	\$3,500
Whitman-Hanson	\$3,200
Wrentham	\$3,250

Source: Strategies for Children tuition analysis, June 2019

Please answer these questions on a separate piece of paper or Google Doc.

1. Describe the issue at hand using the two *Independent* articles. In doing so, use specific details, including a dollar amount. Also, please note the year that these articles were published.
2. What were concerns raised by members of the school committee? Identify at least two specific concerns.
3. What course of action did the school committee eventually take? Again, please use dollar amounts.
4. Using the chart from “Strategies for Children”, what impact did the school committee’s decision have on Littleton residents? Again, use dollar amounts.
5. How does this issue demonstrate the roles and responsibilities of a school committee in Massachusetts?