



READING PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

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Dear Reading Parents:

There seems to be quite the buzz about town regarding a grant the Reading Public Schools is seeking. The Reading Public Schools submitted a grant application for The Extended Day Planning Grant. This grant is a research and development grant which funds the investigation, development, and planning of extended day programs that fit within certain State criteria. If we are awarded this grant, it in no way commits the Reading Public Schools to extending the school day for children. It does commit us to investigate the topic of longer school days and bring various constituencies together to discuss and decide upon possible next steps.

Public schools rarely, if ever, have the opportunity to fund R&D. If we obtain this grant, it will allow us to think out of the box, obtain input from a wide variety of people, investigate best practices from other school districts, and engage in fruitful dialogue with our school community. After this process, if we can commit to proceeding forward, we will apply for a grant to fund implementation.

It is unfortunate that the Boston Globe saw fit to publicize our submittal in such a way that it implied that a commitment had already been made to extend the school day. The entire intent of our submittal is to engage our parents, faculty, and students in conversation on the topic if, and only if, we obtained this R&D grant. No final decision on implementation has been made or was ever intended to be made until after we were awarded the R&D grant, completed the R&D process, and a broad base of support materialized.

I hope this clears up any confusion regarding this issue. Should we receive this grant I look forward to working with you to discuss and research this exciting topic.

Sincerely,

Patrick A. Schettini, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools