



**HUDSON**  
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

## **Statement on Return to One-Year Kindergarten Program and Additional Support Services Now Available to Advance Students' Achievement**

Oct. 16, 2023

There have been questions regarding the Hudson City School District Board of Education's vote to return to a one-year kindergarten program at Montgomery C. Smith Elementary School. The Board of Education welcomes the opportunity to provide more context and outline the additional comprehensive support services now being provided to ensure success for our youngest learners.

Starting next school year, kindergartners will return to the traditional one-year kindergarten, which long benefitted students academically, socially and emotionally by preparing them for first grade and beyond.

However, the Board of Education, Superintendent Dr. Juliette Pennyman and the leadership of Montgomery C. Smith Elementary School do recognize and understand the impacts of the pandemic and other societal factors that affect learning.

In response, multi-tiered actions and support steps have been enhanced or implemented, both broadly and on a one-on-one basis, to assist kindergartners working to overcome learning deficits and close gaps academically and socially.

These multiple tiers include:

- As an initial step, each student's achievement, compared to standards, has been and continues to be carefully evaluated.
- Targeted interventions, customized to meet each student's needs and advance performance to meet and exceed standards, have been implemented or are being enhanced.
- Differentiated instruction is tailored for each educational segment to support advancement.
- Teacher's aides are in classrooms, working directly with students in consultation with teachers.
- Extended-day learning with tutors, as well as afterschool activities, are vital tools to further support students' progress.
- Enhanced communications with parents is underway, resulting in additional parent involvement, support and assistance.

This carefully considered decision to return to a one-year kindergarten program was recommended by the former superintendent and agreed to by the current superintendent. In addition, in-depth discussions with Montgomery C. Smith Elementary School leaders and the Board of Education were held by both superintendents. It is important to note that Hudson's two-year transitional kindergarten program was not required by the New York State Education Department.

The Board of Education strongly believes that this decision is in the best interests of our youngest students. The Board is confident that kindergartners, with comprehensive services to support those in need, will thrive in a traditional one-year kindergarten program.

Thank you.

The Hudson City School District Board of Education  
Willette Jones, President  
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