

CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

**DEVELOPMENTAL KINDERGARTEN
TRANSITIONAL FIRST GRADE**

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- **Five-Year Preschool Plan approved in 2008**
- **Funding never followed**
- **Freehold Borough adopted “Tools of the Mind” Curriculum**
- **Full-day Preschool Program was implemented in 2008**



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- **Preschool program cut back to half-day in 2011 due to lack of funding**
- **Waiting list existed when full-day program was operational**
- **No waiting list for half-day program**
- **We are reaching less 3 & 4 year olds**
- **Our universe is close to 300 students**



ACHIEVEMENT GAP

- **Academic achievement gap begins before students enroll in Kindergarten**
- **Need other ways to replace lack of full-day preschool for our universe**
- **District cannot continue to wait for full preschool funding**
- **Other programs can be implemented to close the achievement gap during early childhood**



STRATEGIC PLANNING



- **Early Childhood Subcommittee**
- **Input from teachers and parents**
- **Visits to school districts**
- **New Common Core Standards**
 - No re-teaching
- **Develop criteria for Developmental Kindergarten & Transitional First Grade programs**

DEVELOPMENTAL KINDERGARTEN

“SPRINGBOARD TO SUCCESS”

- **Provides additional time to develop:**
 - Fine motor skills
 - Cognitive skills
 - Social skills
- **Build background knowledge**
- **Build vocabulary**



Transitional kindergarten gives a tremendous opportunity to increase kindergarten readiness by laying the foundation for reading proficiency and better preparing our students to be successful.

DEVELOPMENTAL KINDERGARTEN – WHO ATTENDS?

- **Students with no preschool experience**
- **Students who lack the skills necessary to be successful in the academic expectations of the kindergarten curriculum.**
- **Students who lack the social and emotional maturity needed to be successful in kindergarten.**



TRANSITIONAL FIRST GRADE (T-1)



- **This program is intended to target students who have completed a kindergarten program, but based on a variety of data, would benefit from an additional year of language development/literacy instruction and academic skill building prior to entering first grade.**
- **Upon completion of T-1, students will be placed into a first grade classroom.**

THE PROCESS



- **Formed a committee composed of teachers, administrators and parents**
- **T-1 was the major focus of our committee**
- **Visited schools with T-1 classes**
- **Developed a criteria and survey for teachers**

THE PLAN



- **Teachers will identify students using the criteria survey**
- **Informational meeting for parents**
- **Professional opportunities for curriculum development for teachers over the summer.**