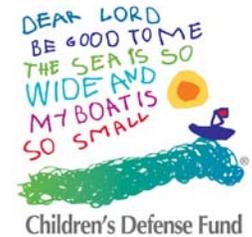


Children's Defense Fund

Full-Day Kindergarten in Michigan



January 2012

Full-day kindergarten (Full-Day K) is a necessary component of a comprehensive early learning continuum and boosts children's cognitive learning, creative problem-solving and social competence. However Full-Day K is not a part of the K-12 publicly funded school system in most states. Nationally, only 10 states and the District of Columbia require school districts to provide publicly funded Full-Day K through statute. Thirty-four states require school districts to provide at least half-day kindergarten and six have no requirement.

Are Michigan school districts required by statute to fund Full-Day K for all eligible students? ___ Yes X No

Statutory Provisions

- Kindergarten attendance is permitted but not required.ⁱⁱ
- A student must be at least 5 years of age on December 1st to enroll in kindergarten.
 - In a school district which has semi-annual promotions a student is entitled to enroll in kindergarten for the second semester if he/she is at least 5 years of age on March 1st of the year of enrollment.ⁱⁱⁱ
- The compulsory school age is 6.^{iv}
- A kindergarten pupil must be scheduled for at least half of the minimum required instruction hours for grades 1st-12th (549 hours) to be considered enrolled.^v

Funding

- Beginning in 2012-2013, a kindergarten pupil must receive an equal number of instructional hours as pupils in grades 1-12 in order for the teacher to be counted as a Full-time Equivalent (FTE) employee. Therefore, districts would only receive FTE allowance for a kindergarten pupil for a full-day instructional program.^{vi, vii}

Standards

- The Common Core State Standards were adopted in June 2010.^{viii}
- Kindergarten learning expectations are aligned with elementary and secondary standards.^{ix}

Assessment

- Michigan statute does not specify a readiness for kindergarten assessment.
- Legislation is currently pending that would fund a kindergarten entry assessment.

ⁱ National Center for Education Statistics, 2010. "Kindergarten requirements, by State: 2010."

http://nces.ed.gov/programs/statereform/tab5_3.asp

ⁱⁱ Ibid

ⁱⁱⁱ Right to Attend School; Right To Enroll In Kindergarten. *Michigan Revised School Code* § 380.1147

^{iv} Compulsory attendance at public school; enrollment dates; exceptions. *Michigan Revised School Code* § 380.1561

^v Michigan Department of Education. "Public Accounting Manual." http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Section-2_250846_7.pdf

^{vi} House Fiscal Agency. "Education Omnibus Budget: FY 2011-12." http://www.michigan.gov/documents/budget/2011-HLA-4325-8_361142_7.pdf

vii Ibid

viii Common Core State Standards Initiative. "In the States." <http://www.corestandards.org/in-the-states>

ix Transitions and Alignments. (2011, January). Education Week, Quality Counts. 30 (16) pg 50.