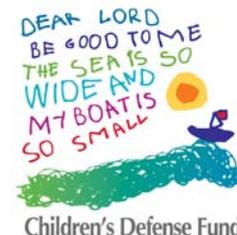


Children's Defense Fund

Full-Day Kindergarten in Delaware



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 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 Delaware school districts required by statute to fund Full-Day K for all eligible students? Yes No

Districts must also offer a half-day option for parents who do not choose to enroll their children in Full-Day K.ⁱⁱ

Statutory Provisions

- Kindergarten attendance is mandatory.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Children must be 5 years old on or before August 31st of the school year in order to enroll in kindergarten.^{iv}
- School districts are required to provide at least 1,060 school hours for kindergarten through grade 11.^v
- The ratio of students to instructors in any class for kindergarten or grades 1-3 shall not exceed 22 students as of the last school day of October.^{vi}

Funding

- Full-Day K is funded at the same rate as grades 1-3. Half-day kindergarten is funded at half the rate of Full-Day K.^{vii}

Standards

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

Assessment

- All school districts are required to follow the state standards to assess the progress of all students, including kindergartners, toward meeting the standards and to report such progress to parents.^x

ⁱ Compulsory Attendance Requirements. *Delaware Code* § 2702

ⁱⁱ An Act To Amend Title 14 Of The Delaware Code Relating To Full-Day Kindergarten. *Delaware Code*
<http://delcode.delaware.gov/sessionlaws/ga143/chp440.shtml#TopOfPage>

ⁱⁱⁱ Compulsory Attendance Requirements. *Delaware Code* § 2702

^{iv} Ibid

^v Policy Making. *Delaware Code* § 1049

^{vi} Maximum student-instructor ratio requirements. *Delaware Code* § 1705A

^{vii} National Education Association. "Great Public Schools Criteria for Delaware."

http://www.nea.org/home/achievement_Delaware.html

^{viii} Common Core State Standard 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.

^x State assessment system; rules and regulations. *Delaware Code* § 151