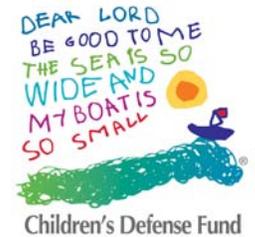


# Children's Defense Fund

## Full-Day Kindergarten in Georgia



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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 Georgia school districts required by statute to fund Full-Day K for all eligible students? \_\_\_ Yes X No

### Statutory Provisions

- Kindergarten attendance permitted but not required.<sup>ii</sup>
- Children must be 5 years old on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year in order to attend kindergarten.<sup>iii</sup>
- A Full-Day K program should be a minimum of 4.5 hours of instruction per day.<sup>iv</sup>
- The teacher to student ratio is 1-to-15 with a maximum class size of 18. Kindergarten classes with an instructional assistant, in addition to a teacher, may have up to 20 students.<sup>v</sup>

### Funding

- Kindergarten is a part of Georgia's state funding formula and is weighted more than grades 1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup>.<sup>vi</sup>

### Standards

- The Common Core State Standards were adopted in July 2010.<sup>vii</sup>
- Kindergarten learning expectations are aligned with elementary and secondary standards.<sup>viii</sup>
- All core content areas have Georgia Performance Standards and Mathematics Common Core Georgia Performance Standards for kindergarten through high school.

### Assessment

- All Georgia kindergarten students participate in the Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (GKIDS) in order to provide cumulative evidence of a student's readiness for first grade.
- Students are assessed in literacy, mathematics, and social/emotional development in a variety of one-on-one, small group and large group instructional settings throughout the kindergarten year.

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<sup>i</sup> General and Career Education Programs. *Official Code of Georgia Annotated* § 20-2-151

<sup>ii</sup> Education Commission of the States. "State Kindergarten Statutes: State Comparisons." <http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=14>.

<sup>iii</sup> General and Career Education Programs. *Official Code of Georgia Annotated* § 20-2-151

<sup>iv</sup> Ibid

<sup>v</sup> Quality Basic Education Formula. *Official Code of Georgia Annotated* § 20-2-161

<sup>vi</sup> Ibid

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

<sup>viii</sup> Transitions and Alignments. (2011, January). Education Week, Quality Counts. 30 (16) pg 50.