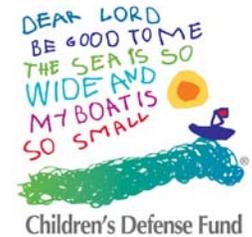


Children's Defense Fund

Full-Day Kindergarten in Hawaii



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

15,010 students were enrolled in kindergarten during the 2010-2011 school year.ⁱⁱ

Statutory Provisions

- Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory.ⁱⁱⁱ
- The compulsory age of education is 6.^{iv}
- Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, students who will be at least 5 years of age on or before December 31st of any school year shall attend a public or private school kindergarten.^v
- Hawaii currently provides and maintains junior kindergarten and kindergarten programs as part of the public education system.^{vi}
 - Junior kindergarten serves as a second tier for children who do not meet the age requirement for kindergarten, but whose parents still wish to enroll them in kindergarten. However, by the 2013-2014 school year junior kindergarten will be eliminated.^{vii}

Funding

- Hawaii does not use a weighted funding formula.^{viii}

Standards

- The Common Core State Standards were adopted in June of 2010.^{ix}
- Hawaii has developed a series of rubrics entitled "General Learner Outcomes for Kindergarten" that serve as guidelines for teachers and students to evaluate student progress.^x

Assessment

- The Hawaii State School Readiness Assessment collects information regarding children's readiness to succeed in school. This tool allows the state to develop improvement plans for elementary education and develop plans for easing the entry into kindergarten.^{xi}

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

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

ⁱⁱ Hawaii State Department of Education. "Official Enrollment Count 2010-2011."

"[http://lilinode.k12.hi.us/STATE/BOE/Minutes.nsf/a15fa9df11029fd70a2565cb0065b6b7/a4f51e574c4d7fd00a2578a500019847/\\$FILE/Attachment%20A.pdf](http://lilinode.k12.hi.us/STATE/BOE/Minutes.nsf/a15fa9df11029fd70a2565cb0065b6b7/a4f51e574c4d7fd00a2578a500019847/$FILE/Attachment%20A.pdf)

ⁱⁱⁱ Junior Kindergarten And Kindergarten Program; Establishment; Attendance. *Hawaii Revised Statute* §302A-411

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- ^{iv} Attendance Compulsory. *Hawaii Revised Statute* §302A-1132
- ^v Junior Kindergarten And Kindergarten Program; Establishment; Attendance. *Hawaii Revised Statute* §302A-411
- ^{vi} Ibid
- ^{vii} Hawaii Department of Education. "Legislative Report."
http://doe.k12.hi.us/reports/tolegislature_2011/A09%20SB2068SD2,%20HD1CD1.pdf
- ^{viii} National Education Association. "Great Public Schools Criteria for Hawaii"
http://www.nea.org/home/achievement_Hawaii.html
- ^{ix} Common Core State Standards Initiative. "In the States." <http://www.corestandards.org/in-the-states>
- ^x Hawaii State Department of Education. "General Learner Outcomes (GLOs) Rubrics."
http://doe.k12.hi.us/curriculum/GLO_rubric.htm
- ^{xi} Hawaii State Department of Education. "Hawaii State School Readiness Assessment."
<http://arch.k12.hi.us/school/hssra/hssra.html#>