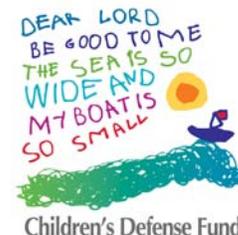


# Children's Defense Fund

## Full-Day Kindergarten in Louisiana



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

### Statutory Provisions

- **Kindergarten attendance is mandatory.**<sup>ii</sup>
- **Children must be 5 years old on or before September 30<sup>th</sup> of the school year.**<sup>iii</sup> The youngest age a child may attend school is one year prior to 1<sup>st</sup> grade age which is 6 years on or before September 30<sup>th</sup>.<sup>iv</sup>
- **The minimum school day shall include 360 minutes of instructional time, exclusive of recess, lunch and planning periods for grades PreK-12.**<sup>v</sup>
- **For funding purposes the teacher to student ratio is 1-to-20.**<sup>vi</sup>

### Funding

- Kindergarten is funded on the same level as grades 1-3. Local school boards must adopt a minimum foundation program and formula for the equitable allocation of funds to parish and city school systems. In adopting such program and formula, boards must set funding at the pupil-teacher ratio of twenty students to one classroom teacher for grades K-3.<sup>vii</sup>

### Standards

- The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) were adopted in July 2010.<sup>viii</sup>
- Kindergarten learning expectations are aligned with elementary and secondary standards.<sup>ix</sup>

### Assessment

- If a student does not attend a full-day, full-year kindergarten, the local education agency is authorized to administer an academic readiness screening.
- Developmental readiness student screening for placement and for planning instruction shall occur upon initial school entry into kindergarten.<sup>x</sup>
- Every child in public school in grades K-3 shall be screened, at least once, for the existence of impediments to a successful school experience.<sup>xi</sup> These impediments include dyslexia and related disorders, attention deficit disorder, and social and environmental factors that put a child at risk.<sup>xii, xiii</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> Kindergarten; Establishment; Entrance Age. *Louisiana Revised Statute* §17:151.3

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid

<sup>iii</sup> Ibid

<sup>iv</sup> Age of School Entrance; Proof Of Age. *Louisiana Revised Statute* § 17:222

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- <sup>v</sup> Curriculum; Length of School Period. *Louisiana Revised Statute § 17:154*
- <sup>vi</sup> Duties, Functions, and Responsibilities Of Board. *Louisiana Revised Statutes § 17:7(2)(a)*
- <sup>vii</sup> Ibid
- <sup>viii</sup> Common Core State Standard Initiative. "In The States." <http://www.corestandards.org/in-the-states>
- <sup>ix</sup> Transitions and Alignments. (2011, January). Education Week, Quality Counts. 30 (16) pg 50.
- <sup>x</sup> Louisiana Competency-Based Education Program; statewide standards for required subjects. Louisiana Revised Statute § 17:24.4
- <sup>xi</sup> School Readiness Assessment. *Louisiana Revised Statute § 17:391.11*
- <sup>xii</sup> Screening And Intervention; Purpose; Applicability. *Louisiana Revised Statute § 17:392.1*
- <sup>xiii</sup> Education Commission on the States. "Kindergarten Screening and Assessment Requirements."  
<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=31>