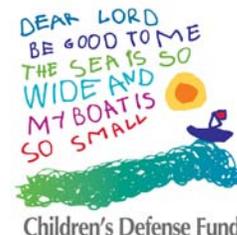


# Children's Defense Fund

## Full-Day Kindergarten in Maine



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

In the 2010-2011 school year, 13,783 children were enrolled in public kindergarten across the state.<sup>ii</sup>

### Statutory Provisions

- Districts are required to provide a K-12 education for all students.<sup>iii</sup>
- The compulsory age for attending school is 7 years old.<sup>iv</sup>
- Children must be 5 by October 15<sup>th</sup> of the school year to be enrolled in kindergarten.<sup>v</sup>
- Kindergarten instruction is defined as a minimum of two and a half hours per day for 175 days per academic year. A school administrator has the option of filing for approval to reduce this number.<sup>vi</sup> School administrators can also increase the number of instructional hours in kindergarten in order to "improve student performance and to reduce the risk of later school failure."<sup>vii</sup>
- The maximum teacher to student ratio is 1-to-20.<sup>viii</sup>

### Funding

- Districts receive funding through the Essential Programs and Services School Funding Formula. Allocations are based on the previous October and April calendar year pupil counts.
- Districts receive a full per-pupil allocation for kindergarten students.
- There are additional weights to the basic per-pupil allocation which include: economically disadvantaged populations, limited English proficiency, and PreK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade targeted weight.

### Standards

- Common Core State Standards were adopted in April 2011.<sup>ix</sup>
- Kindergarten standards are aligned with elementary and secondary expectations.<sup>x</sup>

### Assessment

- School districts must develop and implement, where appropriate, education interventions for all students in public K-12 schools.<sup>xi</sup>

---

<sup>i</sup> National Center for Education Statistics, 2010. "Kindergarten requirements, by State: 2010."

[http://nces.ed.gov/programs/statereform/tab5\\_3.asp](http://nces.ed.gov/programs/statereform/tab5_3.asp)

<sup>ii</sup> Maine Department of Education. "2010/2011 Public Schools Fall Enrollment by Grade & County."

<http://www.maine.gov/education/enroll/attending/2011/pub/fenpbcg10.htm>

- 
- iii Program. 20-A Maine Revised Statute § 1258
  - iv Compulsory Attendance. 20-A Maine Revised Statute. § 5001-A
  - v Minimum Ages. 20-A Maine Revised Statute § 5201
  - vi CMR 05-071-125
  - vii CMR 05-071-125
  - viii CMR 05-071-125
  - ix "In the States." Map. *Common Core Standards Initiative*. 2011. Web. 19 Oct 2011.
  - x Chance for Success. (2011, January). Education Week, Quality Counts. 30 (16) pg 44.
  - xi CMR 05-071-101