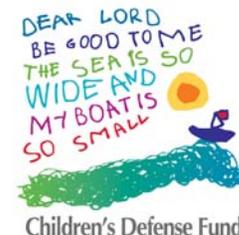


# Children's Defense Fund

## Full-Day Kindergarten in Nevada



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 Nevada school districts required by statute to fund Full-Day K for all eligible students? \_\_\_Yes XNo

During the 2010-2011 school year, there were 32,629 students enrolled in kindergarten.<sup>ii</sup>

### Statutory Provisions

- The compulsory school age is 7.<sup>iii</sup>
- A child must reach the age of 5 by September 30<sup>th</sup> to enter kindergarten.<sup>iv</sup>
- A school district must open and maintain a kindergarten in each elementary school in that district. However, if fewer than 15 students wish to enroll, the school district may arrange other options for those students.<sup>v</sup>
- The maximum teacher to student ratio is 1-to-15 for K- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.<sup>vi</sup>
- Children are allowed to skip kindergarten as long as they can pass a developmental screening test to determine their entrance into 1<sup>st</sup> grade.<sup>vii</sup>

### Funding

- Nevada provides less funding for half-day kindergarten and Full-Day K than for grades 1-12.<sup>viii</sup>

### Standards

- The Common Core State Standards were adopted in June 2010.<sup>ix</sup>
- Kindergarten learning expectations are aligned with elementary and secondary standards.<sup>x</sup>
- Nevada has set up a Council to Establish Academic Standards. It is the Council's job to establish standards of content and performance for each grade level in kindergarten for grade 1-8th.<sup>xi</sup>

### Assessment

- No assessment is required.<sup>xii</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> Nevada Department of Education. "2010-2011 Public Enrollment." <http://www.doe.nv.gov/Resources.htm>

<sup>iii</sup> Attendance Required for Child Between 7 and 18 Years Of Age; Minimum Age Required for Kindergarten and First Grade;

*Nevada Revised Standards* § 392.040

<sup>iv</sup> Ibid

<sup>v</sup> Kinds Of Public Schools. *Nevada Revised Standards* § 388.020

<sup>vi</sup> Reduction of Ratio in Certain Grades; *Nevada Revised Standards* § 388.700

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<sup>vii</sup> Attendance Required for Child Between 7 and 18 Years Of Age; Minimum Age Required for Kindergarten and First Grade; Nevada Revised Standards § 392.040

<sup>viii</sup> National Education Association. "Great Public Schools Criteria for Nevada."

[http://www.nea.org/home/achievement\\_Nevada.html](http://www.nea.org/home/achievement_Nevada.html)

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

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

<sup>xi</sup> Council to Establish Academic Standards. *Nevada Revised Standards* § 389.520 (Effective July 2010)

<sup>xii</sup> Education Commission of the States. "Kindergarten Screening and Assessment Requirements."

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=31>