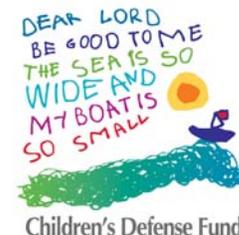


# Children's Defense Fund

## Full-Day Kindergarten in New Hampshire



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

87 percent of eligible students attend public kindergarten. Of the public kindergarten programs in the state, 34 percent are full-day programs.<sup>ii</sup>

### Statutory Provisions

- Kindergarten attendance is permissive.<sup>iii</sup>
- Compulsory school age is 6.<sup>iv</sup>
- Kindergarten sessions are required by statute to be at least 2.5 hours per day for 180 days per school year.<sup>v</sup>
- The teacher to student ratio is 1-to-25; each school shall strive to achieve the class size of 1-to-20.<sup>vi</sup>

### Funding

- Kindergarten, regardless if it is full-day or half-day, is a part of the K-12 state funding formula and is weighted at the rate of 0.5 per day in attendance or \$1,725 per child plus additions as they apply.<sup>vii</sup>

### Standards

- The Common Core State Standards were adopted in July 2010.<sup>viii</sup>
- Kindergarten grade level expectations are aligned with elementary and secondary standards.<sup>ix</sup>
- Beginning in the school year 2008-2009, New Hampshire identified specific criteria to guide education planning and delivery that cover grades K-12.<sup>x</sup> These criteria are identified as the school approval standards in the following areas: English, language arts and reading; mathematics; science; social studies; arts education; world languages; health education, physical education and technology education; information and communication technologies.<sup>xi</sup>

### Assessment

- No assessment is required.<sup>xii</sup>

<sup>i</sup> Elementary School. *New Hampshire Statutes* § 189:25

<sup>ii</sup> Ewen, P, personal communication, 12/2/2011

<sup>iii</sup> Duty of Parent; Compulsory Attendance by Pupil. *New Hampshire Statutes* § 193

<sup>iv</sup> Ibid.

<sup>v</sup> Standard School. *New Hampshire Statutes* § 189:25

<sup>vi</sup> Class Size. *New Hampshire Code Of Administrative Rules - Education* § Ed 306.17

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- vii Substantive Educational Content of an Adequate Education. *New Hampshire Statutes* § 193-E:2a
- viii Common Core State Standards Initiative. "In the States." <http://www.corestandards.org/in-the-states>
- ix Transitions and Alignments. (2011, January). Education Week, Quality Counts. 30 (16) pg 50.
- x New Hampshire Department of Education. "Technical Advisory: Kindergarten."
- xi Ibid
- xii Education Commission of the States. "State Kindergarten Statutes: State Profiles."  
<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=8>