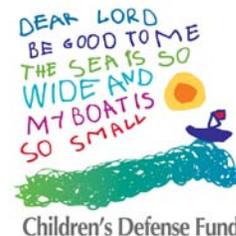


# Children's Defense Fund

## Full-Day Kindergarten in New York State



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

### Statutory Provisions

- Kindergarten attendance is permitted but not required.<sup>ii</sup>
- The compulsory school age is 6 years old.<sup>iii</sup>
- A child must be 5 years old by December 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year to enter kindergarten.<sup>iv</sup>
- Half-day kindergarten is defined as 2.5 hours per day. Full-Day K is defined as five hours per day.<sup>v</sup>
- The school year cannot be any shorter than 180 days.<sup>vi</sup>
- There are no state mandates regarding teacher to student ratios or maximum class size for kindergarten programs.<sup>vii</sup>

### Funding

- State funds are available for eligible public school districts to plan to convert from half-day kindergarten to Full-Day K.<sup>viii</sup> Public school districts are eligible to apply for this funding on a one-time-only basis.<sup>ix</sup>

### Standards

- The Common Core State Standards were adopted in July 2010.<sup>x</sup>
- Kindergarten standards are aligned with elementary and secondary expectations.<sup>xi</sup>

### Assessment

- # Any child entering the public education system in New York state for the first time must be tested with a diagnostic screening for the purpose of recognizing gifted students, those who may be suspected of having a disability, and those who possibly are limited English proficient.
- ##### Any child entering the public education system must also receive certain immunizations as outlined by the state of New York.<sup>xii</sup>

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<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> Ibid

<sup>iii</sup> Attendance of Minors Upon Full Time Day Instruction. *New York Education Code § 3205*

<sup>iv</sup> Public Schools Free To Resident Pupils. *New York Education Code § 3202*

<sup>v</sup> Length Of School Day. *New York Education Code. § 175.5*

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<sup>vi</sup> Length Of School Year, And Expenditure Of Funds. *New York Education Code*. § 1704.2

<sup>vii</sup> The University of The State Of New York State Education Department Office Of Elementary, Middle, Secondary And Continuing Education. "Questions and Answers." <Http://Www.P12.Nysed.Gov/Part100/Pages/Policyearlyliteracyqa.PDF>

<sup>viii</sup> New York State Education Department. "Appendix A: 2009-2010 Regents Budget Priority Detail"  
[http://www.oms.nysed.gov/budget/bud2009-10/appen\\_a.html](http://www.oms.nysed.gov/budget/bud2009-10/appen_a.html)

<sup>ix</sup> Ibid

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

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

<sup>xii</sup> Immunization of Children. *New York Education Code*. § 914