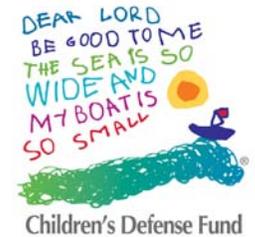


Children's Defense Fund

Full-Day Kindergarten in South Dakota



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 South Dakota school districts required by statute to fund Full-Day K for all eligible students? ___Yes X___No

Statutory Provisions

- **Kindergarten attendance in South Dakota is mandatory.**ⁱⁱ All children must attend kindergarten prior to age 7. Any child who transfers from another state may proceed in a continuous educational program without interruption if the child has not previously attended kindergarten.ⁱⁱⁱ
- **A child must be at least 5 years old on or before September 1st of the school year to attend kindergarten.**^{iv}
- **School districts in South Dakota are required to offer a kindergarten program that cannot be less than 437.5 hours per year.**^v
- **Local education agencies are required to define specific school hours.**^{vi}

Funding

- The amount of state aid provided to local school districts for general K-12 education is based on an equitable formula that starts with the same amount of funding per student.^{vii}

Standards

- The Common Core State Standards were adopted in November 2010.^{viii}
- Kindergarten learning expectations are aligned with elementary and secondary standards.^{ix}

Assessment

- A specific type of assessment is not described in statute.^x

ⁱ National Center for Education Statistics, 2010. "Kindergarten requirements, by State: 2010."
http://nces.ed.gov/programs/statereform/tab5_3.asp

ⁱⁱ Responsibility of person controlling child for school attendance--General education development test preparation program--Kindergarten--Transfer from another state. *South Dakota Codified Laws* § 13-27-1

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid

^{iv} Ibid

^v School fiscal year--Local board to set length of school term, day and week--Minimum hours in school term. *South Dakota Codified Laws* § SDCL§ 13-26-1

^{vi} Ibid

^{vii} South Dakota Department of Education 2011. "Issue Brief State Aid to K-12 General Education Funding Formula."
http://doe.sd.gov/ofm/documents/StateAid_IssueBrief.pdf

^{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 Education Commission of the States. "Kindergarten Screening and Assessment Requirements."
<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=31>