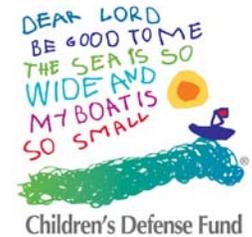


Children's Defense Fund

Full-Day Kindergarten in Vermont



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 Vermont school districts required by statute to fund Full-Day K for all eligible students? ___ Yes X No

In 2010-2011, 5,543 students enrolled in Full-Day K and 705 enrolled in half-day kindergarten.ⁱⁱ

Statutory Provisions

- **Districts must provide public kindergarten education for all eligible students in the district.** However, districts can opt to pay tuition for the students to travel outside of the district in which they live.ⁱⁱⁱ
- **The compulsory age of education is 6 years old.**^{iv}
- **Children must be 5 between August 31st and January 1st in order to attend kindergarten.** School districts may set the entrance date anywhere between these two dates of the school year.^v
- **The school year shall be no shorter than 175 days.**^{vi}
- **The local school board shall set the hours of instruction for schools within the districts.**^{vii}

Funding

- The same level of funding is provided for grades K-12.^{viii}

Standards

- The Common Core State Standards were adopted in August 2010.^{ix}
- Kindergarten standards are aligned with elementary and secondary expectations.^x
- Districts are required to continually update standards for student performance in appropriate content areas and at appropriate intervals for grades K-12.^{xi}

Assessment

- Districts must implement assessments to determine whether students have met the state standards. The assessment techniques shall be updated frequently in order to be kept in alignment with the standards. Each school district determines its own kindergarten assessment.^{xii}

ⁱ National Center for Education Statistics, 2010. "Kindergarten requirements, by State: 2010."

http://nces.ed.gov/programs/statereform/tab5_3.asp

ⁱⁱ Vermont Department of Education. Elementary/Secondary Public School Enrollment 2010-2011 School Year (ENRL-11). http://education.vermont.gov/new/pdfdoc/data/enrollment/EDU-Elementary_and_Secondary_Public_School_Enrollment_2010_2011_School_Year.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ School district to maintain public elementary schools or pay tuition. *Vermont Statutes Annotated* § 821.

^{iv} Attendance by children of school age required. *Vermont Statutes Annotated* § 1121.

^v 'Legal pupil' defined; access to school. *Vermont Statutes Annotated* § 1073.

^{vi} School year and school day. *Vermont Statutes Annotated* § 1071.

^{vii} Ibid.

^{viii} National Education Association. "Great Public Schools Criteria for Vermont"

http://www.nea.org/home/achievement_Vermont.html.

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

^x Transitions and Alignments. (2011, January). Education Week, Quality Counts. 30 (16) pg 50.

^{xi} State board, general powers and duties. *Vermont Statutes Annotated* § 164

^{xii} Ibid