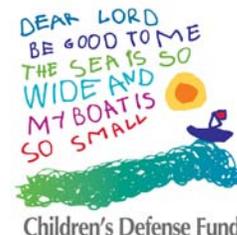


Children's Defense Fund

Full-Day Kindergarten in West Virginia



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 West Virginia school districts required by statute to fund Full-Day K for all eligible students? Yes No

Statutory Provisions

- Kindergarten attendance is permitted but not required.ⁱⁱ
- Students may enter kindergarten if they turn 5 years of age prior to September 1st of the school year.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Programs for 5-year-old children shall be full-day, everyday programs.^{iv}
- Kindergarten classes have a maximum class size of 20 with a teacher to student ratio of 1-to-20.^v

Funding

- Full-Day K is mandatory; therefore all kindergarten students receive full funding compared to other grades.^{vi}

Standards

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

Assessment

- Upon the request of a parent, county boards must provide developmental screening for children under compulsory school entrance age.^{ix}

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

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

ⁱⁱ School entry age; operation of schools on semester basis. *West Virginia Code*. § 18-5-40.

ⁱⁱⁱ Kindergarten programs. *West Virginia Code*. §18-5-18.

^{iv} Ibid.

^v Maximum Teacher-Pupil Ratio. *West Virginia Code*. § 18-5-18a.

^{vi} Education Commission of the States 2005. "State Education Funding Formulas

And Grade Weighting." www.lwvri.org/edstudy/2011-EducationWeek-IVa-FundingFormulas.pdf

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

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

^{ix} Compulsory Preenrollment hearing, vision, speech and language testing; developmental screening for children under compulsory school age. *West Virginia Code*. § 18-5-17.