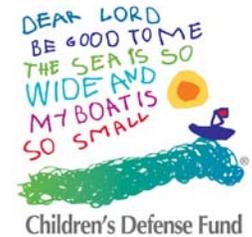


Children's Defense Fund

Full-Day Kindergarten in Wyoming



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 Wyoming school districts required by statute to fund Full-Day K for all eligible students? ___Yes Xⁱ_No

Statutory Provisions

- Districts are required to provide kindergarten to children and there must be at least one Full-Day K program per district.ⁱⁱ
- The compulsory age of education is 7.ⁱⁱⁱ
- A child may be enrolled in a public kindergarten program if they turn 5 on or before September 15th of the school year.^{iv}
- A school year is no less than 175 days, unless approved by the State Board of Education.^v
- School districts must try to maintain a class size of no more than 20 students per one teacher.^{vi}

Funding

- Funding levels for Full-Day K and half-day kindergarten are based on different funding formulas.^{vii}

Standards

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

Assessment

- Each district is required to implement a reading assessment program for all students in K-3rd grade.^x
- Districts are required to report the assessment data to the State Board of Education in order to track their progress toward the goal of having 85 percent of students reading at grade level by 3rd Grade.^{xi}

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

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

ⁱⁱ Duties of Boards Of Trustees. *Wyoming Statutes* § 21-3-110

ⁱⁱⁱ When Attendance Required; Exemptions; Withdrawal. *Wyoming Statutes* § 21-4-102

^{iv} Age for Registration in First Grade And Kindergarten; Preschool Programs. *Wyoming Statutes* § 21-4-302

^v Schools to Be Free and Accessible To All Children; Minimum School Year. *Wyoming Statutes* § 21-4-301

^{vi} Educational Programs for Schools; Standards; Core Of Knowledge And Skills; Special Needs Programs; Class Size Requirements; Co-curricular Activities. *Wyoming Statutes* § 21-9-101

^{vii} Wyoming Department of Education 2008. "The Wyoming Funding Model"

http://edu.wyoming.gov/Libraries/Publications/Wyoming_Funding_Model_Guidebook_2008JUL11.sflb.ashx

^{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 Reading assessment and intervention. *Wyoming Statutes* § 21-3-401

^{xi} Ibid