



# Children's Defense Fund

## Full-Day Kindergarten in Michigan

January 2013

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 a 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 other states require school districts to provide at least half-day kindergarten and six have no requirement.

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

### Statutory Provisions

- Kindergarten attendance is permissive.<sup>ii</sup>
- A student must be at least 5 years of age on December 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year to enroll in kindergarten.
  - A student in a school district that does not offer kindergarten, that turns 5 on the first day of enrollment of the school year, is entitled to attend school in that district. For the 2013-2014 school year, a child must be 5 on or before November 1<sup>st</sup>, for the 2014-2015, 5 on or before October 1<sup>st</sup>, and for 2015-2016, 5 on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> to enroll in kindergarten. In any year, a parent or legal guardian of a child who will be 5 on or before December 1<sup>st</sup> may notify the district by June 1<sup>st</sup>, or if moving to a new district, by August 1<sup>st</sup>, and enroll the child in kindergarten.<sup>iii iv</sup>
- The compulsory school age is 6.<sup>v</sup>
- There is no data currently available on teacher to student ratio requirements.

### Funding

- Beginning in FY 2012-13, kindergarten pupils must receive an equal number of instructional hours as pupils in grades 1-12 to be counted as a full time equivalent pupil. Therefore districts would only receive a full foundation allowance for a kindergarten pupil for a full-day instructional program.<sup>vi</sup>

### Standards

- The Common Core State Standards were adopted in June 2010.<sup>vii</sup>
- Kindergarten learning expectations are aligned with early childhood and elementary and secondary standards.<sup>viii</sup>

### Assessment

- Funding was allocated in 2011-2012 for the development of a kindergarten entry status assessment.<sup>ix</sup>

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<sup>i</sup> Enrollment of child in kindergarten; age; eligibility. *Michigan Revised School Code* §380.1147

<sup>ii</sup> Compulsory attendance at public school; enrollment dates; exceptions. *Michigan Revised School Code* § 380.1561

<sup>iii</sup> Buch, Lindy. 2012. E-mail correspondence. June 29.

<sup>iv</sup> Enrollment of child in kindergarten; age; eligibility. *Michigan Revised School Code* §380.1147.

<sup>v</sup> Compulsory attendance at public school; enrollment dates; exceptions. *Michigan Revised School Code* § 380.1561

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<sup>vi</sup> House Fiscal Agency. "Education Omnibus Budget: FY 2011-12." [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/budget/2011-HLA-4325-8\\_361142\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/budget/2011-HLA-4325-8_361142_7.pdf) SEE PA 198 OF 2012. Accessed January 2013.

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

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

<sup>ix</sup> Kindergarten entry status assessment; improvement of quality ratings of early childhood providers; allocations. *Michigan Revised School Code* § 388.1632g.