



Children's Defense Fund

Full-Day Kindergarten in Nevada

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 Nevada school districts required by statute to fund Full-Day K for all eligible students? ___ Yes Xⁱ No
During the 2010-2011 school year, there were 32,629 students enrolled in kindergarten.ⁱⁱ

Statutory Provisions

- **The compulsory school age is 7.**ⁱⁱⁱ
- **A child may attend kindergarten if he/she reaches the age of 5 by September 30th.**^{iv}
- **A school district must open and maintain a kindergarten in each elementary school in that district.** However, if fewer than 15 students who wish to enroll, the school district may consider arranging other options for those students.^v
- **Children are allowed to skip kindergarten as long as they can pass a developmental screening test to determine their entrance into first grade.**^{vi}
- **The maximum teacher to student ratio is 1 to 15 for kindergarten through third grade.**^{vii}

Funding

- Nevada provides less funding for half-day and Full-Day K than for grades 1-12.^{viii}
- Some Nevada districts charge parents tuition to pay for Full-Day K.^{ix}

Standards

- The Common Core State Standards were adopted in June 2010.^x
- Kindergarten learning expectations are aligned with elementary and secondary standards.^{xi}
- The state of Nevada has set up a Council to Establish Academic Standards. It is the Council's job to establish standards of content and performance for each grade level in kindergarten and grades 1-8.^{xii}

Assessment

- No assessment is required.^{xiii}

ⁱ Calculation of basic support; effect of declining enrollment; consequences for school district or charter school that deliberately causes decline in enrollment. *Nevada Revised Statutes* § 387.1233.

ⁱⁱ Nevada Department of Education. "2010-2011 Public Enrollment." <http://www.doe.nv.gov/Resources.htm>

ⁱⁱⁱ Attendance required for child between 7 and 18 years of age; minimum age required for kindergarten and first grade; waiver from attendance available for child 6 years of age; developmental screening test required to determine placement; effect of military transfer of parent of child. *Nevada Revised Statutes* § 392.040

^{iv} Ibid

^v Kindergarten: Establishment; board of trustees authorized to provide transportation to school that offers kindergarten or to provide program of instruction at home; budget. *Nevada Revised Statutes* § 388.060.

^{vi} Attendance Required for Child Between 7 and 18 Years Of Age; Minimum Age Required for Kindergarten and First Grade;. *Nevada Revised Statutes* § 392.040

^{vii} Reduction of ratio in certain grades. *Nevada Revised Statutes* § 388.700

^{viii} Calculation of basic support; effect of declining enrollment; consequences for school district or charter school that deliberately causes decline in enrollment. *Nevada Revised Statutes* § 387.1233.

^{ix} (May 2011). Washoe County School District. "Tuition-Based Full-Day Kindergarten Expands Districtwide."

<http://www.washoe.k12.nv.us/community/press-releases/2011-05-23/tuition-based-full-day-kindergarten-expands-districtwide>

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

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

^{xii} Council to Establish Academic Standards. *Nevada Revised Statutes* § 389.520 (Effective July 2010)

^{xiii} Education Commission of the States. "Kindergarten Screening and Assessment Requirements."

<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=31>