



Children's Defense Fund

Full-Day Kindergarten in New Hampshire

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 New Hampshire school districts required by statute to fund Full-Day K for all eligible students? ___ Yes X No
The public kindergarten attendance rate is 87 percent. Thirty-four percent of the kindergartens in New Hampshire are full-day programs.ⁱⁱ

Statutory Provisions

- While school attendance is not mandatory for children younger than six years, school districts are required to offer, at a minimum, half-day kindergarten programs for age eligible children.ⁱⁱⁱ
- The compulsory school age is 6.^{iv}
- The school district shall maintain in each elementary school, a school year of at least 945 hours of instructional time and in each kindergarten at least 450 hours of instructional time.^v
- The teacher to student ratio is 1 to 25; each school shall strive to achieve the class size of 1 to 20.^{vi}

Funding

- Kindergarten is a part of the K-12 state funding formulas and is weighted at the rate of one half-day of attendance, or \$1,725 per child plus additions as they apply.^{vii viii}
- Some New Hampshire districts charge parents tuition to pay for Full-Day K.^{ix}

Standards

- The Common Core State Standards were adopted in July 2010.^x
- Kindergarten grade level expectations are aligned with elementary, secondary standards.^{xi}
- Beginning in the school year 2008-2009, New Hampshire identified specific criteria to guide education planning and delivery that cover grades K-12.^{xii}
- These criteria are identified as the school approval standards in the following areas: English/language arts, and reading; mathematics; science; social studies; arts education; world languages; health education , physical education and technology education; information and communication technologies.^{xiii}

Assessment

- Statute does not specify assessment.^{xiv}

ⁱ Elementary School. *New Hampshire Statutes* § 189:25

ⁱⁱ Ewen, P. 2011. Personal correspondence. December 2.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ewen, P. 2013. Personal correspondence. March 3.

^{iv} Duty of Parent; Compulsory Attendance by Pupil. *New Hampshire Statutes* § 193

^v School Year. *New Hampshire Code Of Administrative Rules- Education* § Ed 306.18

^{vi} Class Size. *New Hampshire Code Of Administrative Rules - Education* § Ed 306.17

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- vii Substantive Educational Content of an Adequate Education. *New Hampshire Statutes* § 193-E:2a
- viii 12/21/2011. Email Correspondence with Patricia Ewen, New Hampshire Department of Education, Office of Early Childhood.
- ix Huss (March 2011). "Derry sets tuition for full-day kindergarten." *Derry News*.
- 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 New Hampshire Department of Education. "Technical Advisory: Kindergarten."
- xiii Ibid
- xiv Education Commission of the States. "State Kindergarten Statutes: State Profiles."
<http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/Report.aspx?id=8>