



Children's Defense Fund

Full-Day Kindergarten in New York

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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 York school districts required by statute to fund Full-Day K for all eligible students? ____ Yes Xⁱ No

Statutory Provisions

- Kindergarten attendance is permissive.ⁱⁱ
- The compulsory school age is 6 years old.ⁱⁱⁱ
- A child is entitled to attend public school if he/she is 5 years old by December 1st of the applicable school year.^{iv}
- Half-Day K is defined as two and a half hours per day. Full-Day K is defined as five hours per day.^v
- There are no state mandates regarding teacher to student ratios or maximum class size.^{vi}

Funding

- **Full day Kindergarten Conversion Aid** – School districts that convert their kindergarten programs to full-day benefit during the first year of such conversion by receiving the State Aid for kindergarten in the same year rather than in the subsequent year, as is the norm.^{vii}

Standards

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

Assessment

- Any child entering the public education system in New York for the first time must be tested with a diagnostic screening for the purpose of recognizing gifted students, those who may have learning disabilities, and those who may have limited English proficiency and complete a physical examination.^x
- Any child entering the public education system must also receive certain immunizations as outlined by the state of New York.^{xi}

ⁱ Length Of School Day. *New York Education Code*. § 175.5

ⁱⁱ Attendance of Minors Upon Full Time Day Instruction. *New York Education Code* § 3205

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.

^{iv} Public Schools Free To Resident Pupils. *New York Education Code* § 3202

^v Length Of School Day. *New York Education Code*. § 175.5

^{vi} (2004) The University of The State Of New York State Education Department Office Of Elementary, Middle, Secondary And Continuing Education. "Questions and Answers." <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/part100/pages/policyearlyliteracyqa.PDF> Accessed January 2013

^{vii} Dwyer, DeSylvia. 2012. E-mail correspondence. 13 June.

^{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 Dwyer, DeSylvia. 2012. E-mail correspondence. 13 June.

^{xi} Immunization of Children. *New York Education Code*. § 914