



Children's Defense Fund

Full-Day Kindergarten in Oregon

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 Oregon school districts required by statute to fund Full-Day K for all eligible students? ____ Yes Xⁱ No
During the 2011-2012 school year, 40,656 children were in kindergarten across the state of Oregon,ⁱⁱ and 14,358 students were in Full-Day K in 2012-2013.ⁱⁱⁱ

Statutory Provisions

- Districts are required to provide at least half-day kindergarten in one school.^{iv}
- A child must be 5 by September 1st in order to attend kindergarten.^v
- The compulsory age for students is 7.^{vi} If a parent or guardian enrolls a child in a district or charter school before the age of 7 years old, the child must attend school on a regular basis, in accordance with attendance regulations for older students.^{vii}
- School districts and charter schools may continue operating and charging tuition for supplemental kindergarten programs through the school year 2014-2015. Beginning with school year 2015-2016, tuition will not be allowed, but districts that offer a full-day program will receive a full weight in the State School Fund distribution formula.^{viii ix}
- There is no data currently available for teacher to student ratio requirements.

Funding

- State statutes allow districts to charge tuition for Full-Day K.^x
- A Full-Day K committee convened in 2010 and recommended that in the 2015-2016 school year, Full-Day K be required in all school districts at no charge to parents.^{xi}
- The current funding formula for Oregon only allows kindergarten students a 0.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) weight^{xii}.
- The Full-Day Kindergarten Implementation Committee recommends that by the 2015-2016 school year, kindergarten students be given a 1.0 FTE weight.^{xiii}

Standards

- The State Board of Education must develop standards for kindergarten and revise them as it sees fit.^{xiv}
- The Common Core State Standards were adopted in October of 2010.^{xv}

Assessment

- The Oregon Department of Education's planning document "Every Student, Every Day – A Success" for kindergarten gives guidance to schools in planning for kindergarten assessment by suggesting data collection on student performance (test scores, work samples, readiness benchmarks), student behavior (socialization skills, attendance), and program impact (referrals to special education and other support programs).^{xvi}
- There is currently no kindergarten assessment in statute in Oregon.

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- ⁱ Free kindergarten facilities; rules; admission of underage child. *Oregon Revised Statutes* § 336.095
- ⁱⁱ Oregon Department of Education. October 1 Enrollment Summary 2010-2011.
<http://www.ode.state.or.us/sfda/reports/r0073Select.asp>
- ⁱⁱⁱ Oregon Department of Education. www.ode.state.or.us/gradelevel/kindergarten/fdk-enrollment-data-chart-2012.pdf
- ^{iv} Free kindergarten facilities; rules; admission of underage child. *Oregon Revised Statutes* § 336.095
- ^v Definitions. *Oregon Revised Statutes* § 336.092
- ^{vi} School attendance required; age limits. *Oregon Revised Statutes* § 339.010
- ^{vii} Heaton, Catherine. 2012. E-mail correspondence. June 12.
- ^{viii} Ibid.
- ^{ix} Free kindergarten facilities; rules; admission of underage child. *Oregon Revised Statutes* § 336.095
- ^x Ibid.
- ^{xi} Recommendations Made by Full-Day Kindergarten Committee Appointed as required by Senate Bill 44
[http://www.ode.state.or.us/gradelevel/kindergarten/full-day-kindergarten-implementation-committee-report-september-2010-final-\(2\).pdf](http://www.ode.state.or.us/gradelevel/kindergarten/full-day-kindergarten-implementation-committee-report-september-2010-final-(2).pdf). Accessed January 2013.
- ^{xii} Ibid.
- ^{xiii} Ibid.
- ^{xiv} Board functions; rules. *Oregon Revised Statutes* § 326.051
- ^{xv} Common Core State Standards Initiative. "In the States" <http://www.corestandards.org/in-the-states>
- ^{xvi} Oregon Department of Education. "Full-Day and Extended-Day Kindergarten Programs."
<http://www.ode.state.or.us/superintendent/priorities/ready4school/finalkindergarten.pdf>. Accessed January 2013