



Children's Defense Fund

Full-Day Kindergarten in South Dakota

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 South Dakota school districts required by statute to fund Full-Day K for all eligible students? ___ Yes X No

Statutory Provisions

- **Kindergarten attendance in South Dakota is mandatory.**ⁱⁱ
 - The statute states that all children shall attend kindergarten prior to age 7. Any child who transfers from another state may proceed in a continuous educational program without interruption if the child has not previously attended kindergarten.ⁱⁱⁱ
- **A child must be at least 5 years old on or September 1st of the school year to attend kindergarten.**^{iv}
- **School districts in South Dakota are required to offer a kindergarten program that cannot be less than 437.5 hours.**^v
- **Local education agencies are required to define specific school hours.**^{vi}
- **There is no data currently available on teacher to student ratio requirements.**

Funding

- The amount of state aid provided to local school districts for general K-12 education is based on an equitable formula that starts with the same amount of funding per student.^{vii viii}

Standards

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

Assessment

- A specific type of assessment is not described in statute.^{xi}

ⁱ School fiscal year--Local board to set length of school term, day and week--Minimum hours in school term. *South Dakota Codified Laws § 13-26-1*

ⁱⁱ Responsibility of person controlling child for school attendance--General education development test preparation program--Kindergarten--Transfer from another state. *South Dakota Codified Laws § 13-27-1*

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid

^{iv} Ibid

^v School fiscal year--Local board to set length of school term, day and week--Minimum hours in school term. *South Dakota Codified Laws § 13-26-1*

^{vi} Ibid

^{vii} South Dakota Department of Education 2011. "Issue Brief State Aid to K-12 General Education Funding Formula." http://doe.sd.gov/ofm/documents/StateAid_IssueBrief.pdf. Accessed January 2013.

^{viii} Definitions. *South Dakota Codified Laws* §13-13-10.1.

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

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

^{xi} Education Commission of the States (2010). "Kindergarten Screening and Assessment Requirements." <http://ecs.force.com/ecsforum/mbquest?SID=a0i70000000XkGj&rep=KD09&Q=Q2189>. Accessed January 2013.