



Children's Defense Fund

Full-Day Kindergarten in West Virginia

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 West Virginia school districts required by statute to fund Full-Day K for all eligible students? Yes No

Statutory Provisions

- The compulsory age of education is 6.ⁱⁱ
- Each student must have completed either a state-approved or a Montessori kindergarten program prior to entry in first grade.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Students may enter kindergarten if they turn 5 prior to September 1st of the school year.^{iv}
- Programs for children who have attained the age of 5 shall be full-day, everyday programs.^v
- The maximum class size is 20, with a teacher to student ratio of 1 to 20.^{vi}

Funding

- Kindergarten pupils are included in, and given equal weight to, grades 1-12 in the State's definition of "net enrollment" for the calculation of the State funding formula.^{vii}

Standards

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

Assessment

- Upon the request of a parent, county boards must provide developmental screening for children under compulsory school entrance age.^x

ⁱ Kindergarten programs. *West Virginia Code* § 18-5-18.

ⁱⁱ Commencement and termination of compulsory school attendance; public school entrance requirements; exceptions. *West Virginia Code* § 18-8-1a.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.

^{iv} Kindergarten programs. *West Virginia Code*. §18-5-18.

^v Ibid.

^{vi} Maximum Teacher-Pupil Ratio. *West Virginia Code*. § 18-5-18a.

^{vii} Definitions. *West Virginia Code*. §18-9A-2.

^{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 Compulsory pre-enrollment hearing, vision, speech and language testing; developmental screening for children under compulsory school age. *West Virginia Code*. § 18-5-17.