

Half-day Kindergarten Amendments

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Candice B. Pierucci

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill requires local education agencies (LEAs) to provide a half-day kindergarten class in each school.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- requires LEAs to provide a half-day kindergarten class in each school;
- removes language related to a requirement to only provide a half-day class within the LEA and upon parental request;
- allows the LEA governing board certain discretion if half-day enrollment is lower than a given threshold; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

This bill provides a special effective date.

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

53G-7-203, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 354

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **53G-7-203** is amended to read:

53G-7-203 . Kindertartens -- Establishment -- Funding -- Assessment.

- (1) Kindertartens are an integral part of the state's public education system.
- (2)(a) Each LEA governing board shall provide kindertartens classes free of charge for kindertartens children residing within the district or attending the charter school.
- (b) Each LEA governing board shall:
 - (i) except as provided in Subsection (2)(c), at each school and for each enrolled

- 31 kindergarten student who chooses to participate in half-day kindergarten, provide
 32 a half-day kindergarten [option for a student] class that comprises the minimum
 33 standards for half-day kindergarten that the state board establishes[~~, in accordance~~
 34 with Subsection (4)(a)(iii), if the student's parent requests a half-day option]; and
 35 (ii)(A) inform parents of the availability of the option to register for a designated
 36 full-curriculum, half-day kindergarten option at the time of all kindergarten
 37 registration, by email, posters, or other announcements when a parent requests
 38 kindergarten registration; and
 39 (B) provide the option to register for a designated full-curriculum, half-day
 40 kindergarten [option] class at the time of registration;
 41 [(iii) ~~provide a dedicated kindergarten class specifically designated as a half-day~~
 42 ~~kindergarten class when enrollment of half-day kindergarten students at an~~
 43 ~~individual school or a regional school exceeds a minimum of 18 students;]~~
 44 [(iv)] (iii) when enrollment of half-day kindergarten students at an individual school
 45 exceeds a minimum of 18 students, designate the school as a half-day
 46 kindergarten provider for the improvement of recruiting teachers that prefer
 47 half-day teaching;
 48 [(v)] (iv) inform parents regarding the additional educational resources and
 49 opportunities available to parents who select the half-day kindergarten [option]
 50 class; and
 51 [(vi)] (v) ensure that a half-day kindergarten student who is registered in a class that
 52 includes full-day kindergarten students receives instruction that at least meets the
 53 minimum standards for half-day kindergarten that the state board establishes[~~, in~~
 54 ~~accordance with Subsection (4)(a)(iii)].~~
 55 (c) An LEA governing board may, at the LEA governing board's discretion, move
 56 students who requested a half-day kindergarten class at an individual school into a
 57 full-day kindergarten class at the school when enrollment of half-day kindergarten
 58 students at the school is below 18 students.
 59 [(e)] (d) Nothing in this Subsection (2):
 60 (i) allows an LEA governing board to require a student to participate in a full-day
 61 kindergarten program;
 62 (ii) modifies the non-compulsory status of kindergarten under [Title 53G,~~]Chapter 6,~~
 63 Part 2, Compulsory Education; or
 64 (iii) requires a student who only attends a half day of kindergarten to participate in

- 65 dual enrollment under Section 53G-6-702.
- 66 (3) Kindergartens established under Subsection (2) shall receive state money under Title
67 53F, Public Education System -- Funding.
- 68 (4)(a) The state board shall:
- 69 (i) develop and collect data from a kindergarten assessment that the board selects by
70 rule;
- 71 (ii) make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative
72 Rulemaking Act, regarding the administration of and reporting regarding the
73 assessment described in Subsection (4)(a)(i); and
- 74 (iii) establish minimum standards for half-day kindergarten.
- 75 (b) An LEA shall:
- 76 (i) administer the assessment described in Subsection (4)(a) to each kindergarten
77 student; and
- 78 (ii) report to the state board the results of the assessment described in Subsection
79 (4)(b)(i) in relation to each kindergarten student in the LEA.
- 80 (5) The state board shall require LEAs to report average daily membership for all
81 kindergarten students who attend kindergarten on a schedule that is equivalent in length
82 to the schedule for grades 1 through 3 with the October 1 data described in Section
83 53F-2-302.
- 84 (6) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
85 state board shall make rules to:
- 86 (a) beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, require a student to be toilet trained
87 before being enrolled in kindergarten;
- 88 (b) establish requirements for an LEA's kindergarten enrollment process to include
89 assurances from a parent that the parent's student is toilet trained;
- 90 (c) create a process for an LEA to follow when an enrolled student in kindergarten is
91 found to not be toilet trained, including:
- 92 (i) referring the student and the student's parent to a school social worker or
93 counselor for additional family supports and resources;
- 94 (ii) allowing a parent or the parent's adult designee to aid in toilet training as needed;
95 and
- 96 (iii) when needed, reintegration of a student once the student has become toilet
97 trained; and
- 98 (d) create exemptions from the requirement in Subsection (6)(a) for a student who is not

99 able to be toilet trained before kindergarten because of a condition described in an
100 IEP or Section 504 accommodation plan.

101 Section 2. **Effective Date.**

102 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2025.