

Kindergarten

Status Quo

- The Legislature funds kindergarten through the basic school program weighted at .55 of a weighted pupil unit (WPU); districts are required to offer half day kindergarten; enrollment is optional (5 year olds are not subject to compulsory education requirements)
- Since 2008, the Legislature has also provided a \$7.5 million appropriation for optional enhanced kindergarten (extended and full-day kindergarten opportunities) through the Early Intervention Program (53A-17a-167).
 - The money is distributed on a formula basis to local education agencies (LEAs).
 - LEAs have flexibility to determine:
 - eligibility for the program (although the statute requires that the program be targeted to at-risk students, at-risk is not defined in statute or administrative rule); and
 - how to implement it (i.e., extended day, full day, or extended year).

Options for expanding optional enhanced kindergarten¹

	<p>#3: Optional full day kindergarten for all students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change WPU weight from .55 to 1 • Approximately \$60.5 million (in addition to current \$7.5 million appropriation)
	<p>#2: Optional full day kindergarten for all students, but include a fee structure based on income</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change certain statutes to allow for this option • Cost depends on specifications of fee structure
	<p>#1: Optional full day kindergarten for all at-risk students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase appropriation to cover all at-risk students • Approximately \$4.1-\$17.7 million depending on definition of at-risk (in addition to current \$7.5 million appropriation)²
	<p>Baseline: The current \$7.5 million appropriation provides funding for full day kindergarten for approximately 5,400 out of 48,900 kindergarten students (11%)</p>	

¹ Funding estimates are approximations only and are based on 2014 Fall enrollment numbers, the 2016 value of the WPU and the Census.

² Lower bound is based on 100% of Federal Poverty Level (\$24,250 for a family of 4) definition of at-risk; Upper bound is based on 185% of Federal Poverty Level (\$44,862 for a family of 4) definition of at-risk.

Pre-Kindergarten (PreK)

Status Quo (Legislative Programs)

- The Legislature has established two programs to address early learning opportunities for preK aged children:
 - UPSTART, which is a home-based program that provides preK aged children access to school readiness software; and
 - The School Readiness Initiative, which contains two components:
 - Private investors partnering with the state to expand access to high-quality preK by investing in preK programs that meet certain high-quality standards; and
 - Grants to private providers and local education agencies to upgrade an existing preschool program to a high-quality school readiness program.

Options for expanding high-quality, optional preK programs for at-risk 4 year olds

Formula funding to school districts and charter schools

- Provide funds to school districts and charter schools, through a formula specified in statute, for the purpose of providing PreK that meets certain high-quality standards

Competitive Grant Program

- Provide funding, on a competitive basis, to school districts, charter schools, private/nonprofit preschools and home-based technology providers that meet certain high-quality standards

Tuition Credit Program

- Provide parents of at-risk 4 year olds a tuition credit that can be used at any high-quality PreK program, including programs provided by school districts, charter schools, private/non-profit preschools or home-based technology providers

Appropriation (millions)	\$1	\$5	\$10	\$15	\$20	\$25	\$30
Number of 4 year olds served ¹	588	2,941	5,882	8,824	11,765	14,706	17,647
% 4 year olds at 100% federal poverty level served ²	8%	39%	78%	100%	100%	100%	100%
% 4 year olds at 185% of federal poverty level served ³	3%	16%	32%	48%	64%	79%	95%

¹ Appropriation divided by .55 WPU (\$1700 for fiscal year 2016).

² Number of 4 year olds served divided by the number of four year olds at or below 100% of the federal poverty level (7,505) based on census data.

³ Number of 4 year olds served divided by the number of four year olds at or below 185% of the federal poverty level (18,500) based on Utah State Office of Education data.