



# Optional Enhanced Kindergarten

Bill: HB-99

Rep.V. Lowry Snow  
Sen. Lyle Hillyard

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Request for **\$18,647,200** ongoing to increase access to Optional Enhanced Kindergarten (OEK) for students.

Combined with the **\$7.5 million** ongoing currently appropriated for the enhanced kindergarten early intervention program, this funding would enable early intervention for the **40%** of students starting school unprepared for kindergarten.

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The **\$2.88 million** in TANF funds supporting the Kindergarten Supplemental Enrichment Program are *expiring* at the end of the 2019-2020 school year. This termination of funds affects programs in **46** schools across **17** LEAs.

Current nationwide and statewide data show better outcomes for students who are enrolled in full-day kindergarten.

Research demonstrates that students who attend quality early-childhood programs like kindergarten are more likely to go on to college, earn more, and save for retirement as adults.

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Grants allow funding to flow through to LEAs down to schools where the student needs are highest. The funding is most often used for the salaries and benefits of kindergarten teachers.

The funding gives LEAs the ability to extend kindergarten instruction from a half-day of instruction up to a full day of instruction.



About **40%** of Utah students are coming to kindergarten at-risk for academic failure, only half are being served through extended learning experiences.



Only **24%** of Utah children have access to state-funded OEK, compared to **80%** nationally.

## OEK Students

Utah data show a higher percentage of OEK students moved **up** one or more performance levels



**40%** of OEK students moved up in literacy performance compared to **16%** of students who did not have OEK

**29%** of OEK students moved up in numeracy from entry to exit compared to **11%** of students who did not have OEK

Source: KEEP Assessment