



**UTAH  
FULL DAY  
KINDERGARTEN  
NOW**

H.B. 193: Full-Day Kindergarten-Representative Waldrip



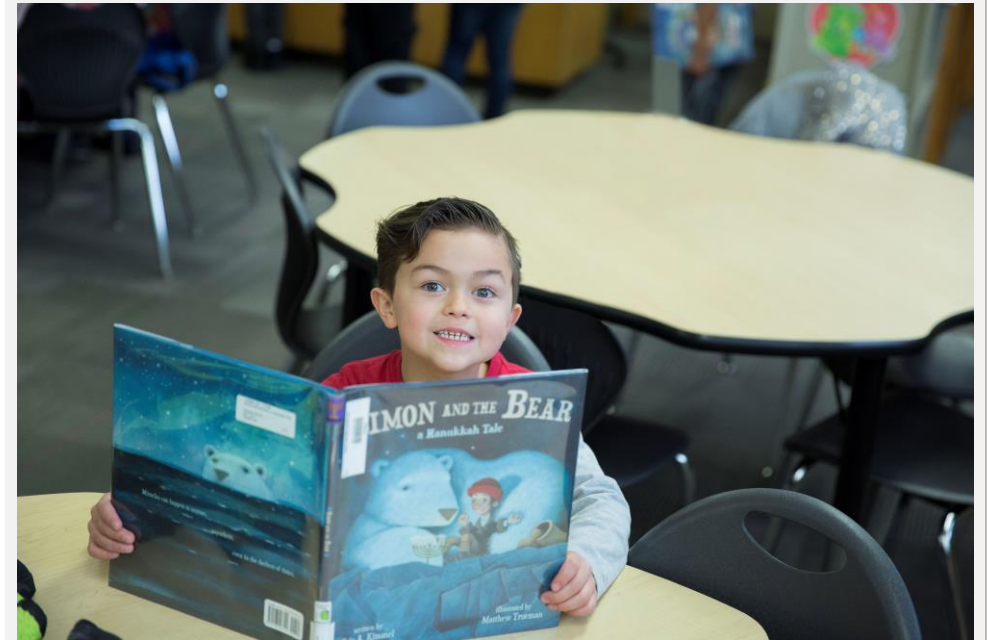
# Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK) – \$22,780,500 Ongoing




<p align="center"><b>Historical Funding Levels and Purpose</b></p> <p><b>Current (SFY 2022) funding level:</b> \$24,455,000</p> <p><b>Funding Level in SFY 2021:</b> \$17,500,000</p> <p><b>Purpose of the program:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides all Utah families access to equitable, optional, full-day kindergarten</li> <li>• Phases funding in over three years to give LEAs time to recruit/hire high-quality teachers, find space, and improve the quality of instruction</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Problems to Address</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students and families face inequitable access to FDK</li> <li>• With half-day kindergarten, there is not sufficient time to:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teach and master all of Utah’s kindergarten standards</li> <li>• Ensure deep student learning</li> </ul> </li> <li>• LEAs lack stable funding to provide FDK to all students</li> </ul>
<p align="center"><b>Projected Outcomes/Results</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statewide access to full-day kindergarten</li> <li>• Improved literacy and numeracy outcomes</li> <li>• Higher long-term student achievement</li> <li>• Less student retention in the early grades</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Impact if not Funded</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inequitable access to optional, FDK across the state</li> <li>• More interventions needed for students</li> <li>• Lower student outcomes</li> </ul> <p><b>Can this funding be scaled?</b> Lower funding levels prevent equitable access to FDK for all kindergarten age students.</p>
<p align="center"><b>Impact on LEA Reporting Requirements</b></p> <p>At full implementation, this should decrease reporting.</p>	<p align="center"><b>Can Federal or Carry-Forward Funds Be Utilized?</b></p> <p>No. One-time funds should not be used for this need.</p>

# Full-Day Kindergarten Bill (FDK)

- Expands equitable access to optional full-day kindergarten as a choice for all students
- Scales up over 3 years to provide
  - Time to recruit and hire high-quality teachers
  - Find space
  - Improve the quality of instruction
- Year 3, funding will shift to a full Weighted Pupil Unit (WPU) and Optional Enhanced Kindergarten (OEK) will be repealed



## Expanding optional full-day kindergarten access across the state:

- Allows for **equitable access to full-day kindergarten for any family** regardless of where they live.
  - Provides **sufficient time for teachers** to ensure quality, deep learning of all 196 kindergarten state standards, and allows for **adequate time for kindergarten students** to master these standards.
  - Provides all students access to **2 healthy meals per day**.
  - **Supports parental choice and local control**, while providing a **stable funding source** for districts and charters.
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- State data shows **increased outcomes for students who attend full-day kindergarten**
  - **4 times greater** outcomes prior to COVID-19 learning disruptions
  - **2 times greater** even with COVID-19 learning disruptions



# National Full-Day Kindergarten Studies



- Full-day kindergarten...
  - Reduced the achievement gap
  - Showed greater outcomes (reading and math)
  - Showed higher and faster growth rates (reading and math)
  - Reduced the need for retention, remediation, and special education referrals
  - Strengthened social and emotional skills

# WASHINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT



- Recently expanded their full-day classrooms using ESSER funds. They opened 778 seats of full-day kindergarten and when **given the option to enroll, 96% families opted in. Their data show excellent outcomes including:**
  - Last year's Acadience Reading data for middle of year was 64% at/above benchmark and 57% growth, this year with FDK, it has reached 79% at/above benchmark and 74% growth.
  - Last year in March, only 60% of K students knew all their letters and sounds. With FDK this year, as of Nov. 1, it is 90%.



- **Thirty-eight states provide full-day kindergarten** as an option for 100% of kindergarten students.
- The remaining **12 states offer full day as an option to 75%-97%** of kindergarten students, except for UT. **UT is the only state that offers FDK to only 30%.**





# Return on Investment

- The return on investment in full-day kindergarten is between \$3.00 and \$7.00 for every dollar spent (Ontario Ministry of Education, 2012).
- The full impact scenario shows a return for the society of 4.8 dollars for every dollar invested and the return to taxpayers is 3.4 dollars (Wilder Research, 2012).
- Full-day kindergarten is cost-effective. The savings that it yields (via reduced grade retention, etc.) help offset the cost of providing it (Weiss & Offenburg, 2002).



# Support for FDK

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- Utah State Board of Education (USBE)
- State Charter School Board (SCSB)
- The Governors 2023 Budget Recommendations
- Joint Legislative Committee (JLC)
- United Way
- Voices for Utah Children
- Utah Education Association (UEA)
- Utah Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

