

HALF-DAY KINDERGARTEN AMENDMENTS

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Trevor Lee

Senate Sponsor: Todd D. Weiler

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill amends provisions regarding half-day kindergarten to ensure that a student attending half-day kindergarten receives instruction in all of the kindergarten core competencies.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ amends provisions regarding half-day kindergarten to ensure that a student attending half-day kindergarten receives instruction in all of the kindergarten core competencies.

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 2023, Chapters 347, 467

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

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

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



- 28 (1) Kindergartens are an integral part of the state's public education system.
- 29 (2) (a) Each LEA governing board shall provide kindergarten classes free of charge for
30 kindergarten children residing within the district or attending the charter school.
- 31 (b) Each LEA governing board shall:
- 32 (i) provide a half-day kindergarten option for a student that comprises all of the
33 kindergarten core competencies if the student's parent requests a half-day option[-]; and
- 34 (ii) inform parents of the availability of the half-day kindergarten option at the time of
35 registration.
- 36 (c) Nothing in this Subsection (2):
- 37 (i) allows an LEA governing board to require a student to participate in a full-day
38 kindergarten program;
- 39 (ii) modifies the non-compulsory status of kindergarten under Title 53G, Chapter 6,
40 Part 2, Compulsory Education; or
- 41 (iii) requires a student who only attends a half day of kindergarten to participate in dual
42 enrollment under Section [53G-6-702](#).
- 43 (3) Kindergartens established under Subsection (2) shall receive state money under
44 Title 53F, Public Education System -- Funding.
- 45 (4) (a) The state board shall:
- 46 (i) develop and collect data from a kindergarten assessment that the board selects by
47 rule; and
- 48 (ii) make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative
49 Rulemaking Act, regarding the administration of and reporting regarding the assessment
50 described in Subsection (4)(a)(i).
- 51 (b) An LEA shall:
- 52 (i) administer the assessment described in Subsection (4)(a) to each kindergarten
53 student; and
- 54 (ii) report to the state board the results of the assessment described in Subsection
55 (4)(b)(i) in relation to each kindergarten student in the LEA.
- 56 (5) Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the state board shall require LEAs to
57 report average daily membership for all kindergarten students who attend kindergarten on a
58 schedule that is equivalent in length to the schedule for grades 1 through 3 with the October 1

59 data described in Section [53F-2-302](#).

60 Section 2. **Effective date.**

61 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2024.