

**HALF-DAY KINDERGARTEN AMENDMENTS**

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Trevor Lee**

Senate Sponsor: Todd D. Weiler

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**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

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*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 ~~Ĥ~~→ **[all of the**

33 **kindergarten core competencies]** **the minimum standards for half-day kindergarten that the state**  
33a **board establishes, in accordance with Subsection (4)(a)(iii).** ~~Ĥ~~← if the student's parent requests a  
33b half-day option[-:]; ~~Ĥ~~→ **[and]** ~~Ĥ~~←

34 (ii) inform parents of the availability of the half-day kindergarten option at the time of  
35 registration ~~Ĥ~~→ [:] ;

35a **(iii) consider kindergarten classes specifically designated as half-day kindergarten classes:**

35b **(A) located regionally or through an interlocal agreement with another LEA; and**

35c **(B) when enrollment of half-day kindergarten students at an individual school exceeds a**  
35d **minimum of 20 students;**

35e **(iv) inform parents regarding the additional educational resources and opportunities available**  
35f **to parents who select the half-day kindergarten option; and**

35g **(v) ensure that a half-day kindergarten student who is registered in a class that includes full-**  
35h **day kindergarten students receives instruction that at least meets the minimum standards for**  
35i **half-day kindergarten that the state board establishes, in accordance with Subsection**

35j **(4)(a)(iii).** ~~Ĥ~~←

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; ~~Ĥ~~→ **[and]** ~~Ĥ~~←

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) ↵→ [=] ; **and**  
50a    **(iii) establish minimum standards for half-day kindergarten.** ↵↵  
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.