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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 that meets minimum standards for half-day kindergarten that the State Board of Education sets;
- requires a local education agency governing board to:
 - inform parents of the availability of the half-day kindergarten option; and
 - provide a designated half-day kindergarten class when half-day enrollment reaches a certain threshold; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

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.

- 29 (1) Kindergartens are an integral part of the state's public education system.
- 30 (2) (a) Each LEA governing board shall provide kindergarten classes free of charge for
31 kindergarten children residing within the district or attending the charter school.
- 32 (b) Each LEA governing board shall[-] :
- 33 (i) provide a half-day kindergarten option for a student that comprises the minimum
34 standards for half-day kindergarten that the state board establishes, in accordance
35 with Subsection (4)(a)(iii), if the student's parent requests a half-day option[-] ; and
- 36 (ii) (A) inform parents of the availability of the option to register for a designated
37 full-curriculum half-day kindergarten option at the time of all kindergarten
38 registration, by email, posters, or other announcements when a parent requests
39 kindergarten registration; and
- 40 (B) provide the option to register for a designated half-day kindergarten option at
41 the time of registration;
- 42 (iii) provide a dedicated kindergarten class specifically designated as a half-day
43 kindergarten class when enrollment of half-day kindergarten students at an
44 individual school or a regional school exceeds a minimum of 18 students;
- 45 (iv) when enrollment of half-day kindergarten students at an individual school
46 exceeds a minimum of 18 students, designate the school as a half-day
47 kindergarten provider for the improvement of recruiting teachers that prefer
48 half-day teaching;
- 49 (v) inform parents regarding the additional educational resources and opportunities
50 available to parents who select the half-day kindergarten option; and
- 51 (vi) ensure that a half-day kindergarten student who is registered in a class that
52 includes full-day kindergarten students receives instruction that at least meets the
53 minimum standards for half-day kindergarten that the state board establishes, in
54 accordance with Subsection (4)(a)(iii).
- 55 (c) Nothing in this Subsection (2):
- 56 (i) allows an LEA governing board to require a student to participate in a full-day
57 kindergarten program;
- 58 (ii) modifies the non-compulsory status of kindergarten under Title 53G, Chapter 6,
59 Part 2, Compulsory Education; or
- 60 (iii) requires a student who only attends a half day of kindergarten to participate in
61 dual enrollment under Section 53G-6-702.
- 62 (3) Kindergartens established under Subsection (2) shall receive state money under Title

- 63 53F, Public Education System -- Funding.
- 64 (4) (a) The state board shall:
- 65 (i) develop and collect data from a kindergarten assessment that the board selects by
- 66 rule;~~and~~
- 67 (ii) make rules, in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative
- 68 Rulemaking Act, regarding the administration of and reporting regarding the
- 69 assessment described in Subsection (4)(a)(i)~~;~~ and
- 70 (iii) establish minimum standards for half-day kindergarten.
- 71 (b) An LEA shall:
- 72 (i) administer the assessment described in Subsection (4)(a) to each kindergarten
- 73 student; and
- 74 (ii) report to the state board the results of the assessment described in Subsection
- 75 (4)(b)(i) in relation to each kindergarten student in the LEA.
- 76 (5) Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the state board shall require LEAs to report
- 77 average daily membership for all kindergarten students who attend kindergarten on a
- 78 schedule that is equivalent in length to the schedule for grades 1 through 3 with the
- 79 October 1 data described in Section 53F-2-302.
- 80 Section 2. **Effective date.**
- 81 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2024.