

Full-Day Kindergarten Bill Draft

Summary: The bill provides funding through the School Finance Act formula for full-day kindergarten programs. Each student enrolled in a half-day program will be counted as .58 FTE, and **each student enrolled in a full-day program will be counted as 1.0 FTE.**

Main Components:

- Provides for **one-time implementation funding (outside of the formula)** for each school district or the CSI equal to .05 multiplied by the number of children enrolled in full-day kindergarten in the district or CSI charter school.
 - Specifies that CDE shall distribute the amount to each district and to the CSI **before July 31, 2019.**
- Continues current practice to **count a child retained in half-day kindergarten as a full-day pupil** for the child's second year of kindergarten, regardless of whether the pupil is enrolled in full-day kindergarten.
- Allows districts that currently use ECARE for full-day kindergarten to **retain ECARE slots to use for full or half-day preschool within that district**, and prevents a school district from using ECARE slots for full-day kindergarten since the state will fully fund full-day kindergarten.
- **Prevents a school district, charter school, or CSI from charging parents tuition or fees** for the kindergarten program, except for fees that are routinely charged to parents enrolled in other grades and applicable to the kindergarten program.
- **Updates existing requirements** to ensure a local board of education that is not offering a full-day kindergarten program as of the 2019-2020 school year must develop a plan to potentially provide for full-day kindergarten.
- Clarifies that **nothing requires a child to attend full-day kindergarten** or prohibits a school district from offering half-day kindergarten.
- Requires a charter school that is authorized to offer half-day kindergarten and chooses to implement full-day kindergarten to **notify its chartering local board of education or CSI of its intent to offer full-day kindergarten** and update the charter contract as necessary.
 - If the local board or CSI objects, the local board or CSI must provide a **written explanation of its objection.** Clarifies that the charter school may appeal to the State Board of Education if the charter school and local board or CSI cannot agree.
- In order to address challenges for declining enrollment districts, requires the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to adjust the district's four prior years of pupil enrollment to **count each child enrolled in full-day as a 1.0 for the sole purpose of averaging pupil enrollment.**