



What Does the Full-Day Kindergarten Proposal Mean for Senate District 15?

Full-Day Kindergarten: A foundation for learning in Colorado

Colorado prospers when our kids thrive because they are our future workforce, leaders and community members. No matter where they live in our state—the plains, mountains, rural areas or urban centers—children need high-quality support for development. The foundation of our civic, social and economic well-being in Colorado starts with a strong early childhood and education system—yet that base is missing a critical piece: statewide, full-day kindergarten.

Why is full-day kindergarten such a wise investment?

- **Better prepared children.** The research on full-day kindergarten and its benefits are robust, from improving literacy skills, greater math and reading gains during the school year, and overall academic growth. In addition, children with developmental delays and special learning needs are able to be identified earlier and supported with appropriate interventions.
- **Helping family budgets.** Parents, even those with low incomes in many communities, must pay tuition to access a full-day experience. With tuition reaching more than \$4,500 per school year in some communities, this cost is either prohibitive or represents a strain on family budgets that full-funding could alleviate.
- **Helping school budgets.** Many school districts, especially in rural areas, are already absorbing the cost of providing full-day kindergarten. Ensuring adequate state investment will alleviate pressure on many school district budgets to invest in local priorities such as teacher pay, lower class sizes, and other support services.
- **Expanded early learning.** Fully funding full-day kindergarten frees up more than 5,000 early learning slots currently used to support full-day kindergarten access for at-risk children. Only 24 percent of 4-year-olds in Colorado have access to our state-funded preschool program and there are several thousand children on our state preschool wait list. Fully investing in full-day kindergarten allows us to open up preschool access for children facing the most barriers to learning.



What is being proposed?

The Colorado General Assembly will have an opportunity to write a budget this year to finally fully fund full-day kindergarten. The bill will make the following changes:

- Funding full-day kindergarteners as full-day students rather than treating them as half-day students as we do currently and continue to fund half-day students at 0.58 FTE. This will mean parents will no longer face the burden of tuition and districts will free up local resources for local needs. This is not a mandate to districts to offer full-day kindergarten to districts nor it is a mandate to parents to send their children. Rather, it adequately funds parents' educational choices for their children.
- Allowing districts to retain more than 5,000 early learning slots currently being used for kindergarten to expand preschool access for at-risk children.
- Supporting the partnership between charter schools and their authorizers by outlining processes that would allow full-day kindergarten to be offered at a CSI or district-authorized charter school.
- Averaging recent enrollment numbers for full-day kindergarten to smooth the impact of counting full-day kindergarteners as full-day students in declining enrollment districts.
- Updating existing requirements to ensure a local board of education that is not offering a full-day kindergarten program develops a plan to potentially provide full-day kindergarten.

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How will the proposed state budget and fully funding full-day kindergarten affect school funding in your legislative district?

The table below shows how the proposed state budget and fully funding full-day kindergarten would affect funding for school districts that fall at least partially within your legislative district at full enrollment.

Fully funding full-day kindergarten would bring an additional \$11,249,509 to school districts within your legislative district once those districts reach full enrollment in a full-day program. Coupled with the proposed increases in Total Program and a decrease of \$77 million in the budget stabilization factor as proposed in the January 15th Governor's Budget letter, your district would see a net increase in total program funding of \$28,710,734.

School District	Change in Total Program Between 2018-19 and 2019-20 due to A23 and \$77M Budget Stabilization Factor Decrease	Anticipated Increase in Funding Due to Fully Funding Full-day Kindergarten At Full Enrollment in a Full-day Program	Overall Increase in Total Program due to Budget Proposal and Fully Funding Full-day Kindergarten	Percent of Kindergarteners Currently Enrolled in a Full-day
Poudre	\$12,613,807	\$7,722,176	\$20,335,983	75%
Thompson	\$4,449,143	\$3,314,118	\$7,763,261	68%
Estes Park	\$398,275	\$213,215	\$611,490	100%
TOTAL	\$17,461,225	\$11,249,509	\$28,710,734	

Change in Total Program: *The change in state and local share due to Amendment 23 and a \$77M decrease in the budget stabilization factor.*

Anticipated Increase Due to Fully Funding Full-day Kindergarten at Full Enrollment: *The change in total program funding due to the full-day kindergarten proposal. This estimate assumes full enrollment in a full-day program.*

Overall Increase in Total Program Funding: *The change in total program due to Amendment 23 and \$77M decrease in budget stabilization factor plus the increased funding for full-day kindergarten at full enrollment.*