



StateNotes

Kindergarten

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State Kindergarten Statutes: 50-State Reports

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Kindergarten Entrance Age

Alabama	5 on or before September 1 (Ala. Code § 16-28-40)
Alaska	5 before August 15 (Alaska Stat. § 14.03.080)
Arizona	5 before September 1 (Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-821)
Arkansas	2009-2010 school year: 5 on or before September 1 2010-2011 school year: 5 on or before August 15 Thereafter: 5 on or before August 1 (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-207)
California	5 on or before November 1st for children entering school in 2012. The cutoff moves to September 1st in 2014. (Cal. Educ. Code § 48000)
Colorado	A [local] board of education may establish and maintain kindergarten in connection with schools of its district for the instruction of children one year prior to the year in which such children would be eligible for admission to the first grade. (Colo. Rev. Stat. § 22-32-119)
Connecticut	5 on or before January 1 (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-15c)
Delaware	5 on or before August 31 (Del. Code Ann. tit. 14 § 2702)
District of Columbia	5 on or before December 31 (D.C. Code Ann. § 38-202)
Florida	5 on or before September 1 (Fla. Stat. ch. 232.01)
Georgia	5 by September 1 (Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-150)
Hawaii	5 on or before August 1 The entrance age for junior kindergarten is 5 after August 1 and before January 1. (Haw. Rev. Stat. § 302A-411)
Idaho	5 on or before September 1 (Idaho Code § 33-201)
Illinois	5 on or before September 1 (105 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/10-20.12)
Indiana	5 on or before August 1. (Ind. Code § 20-33-2-7)
Iowa	5 on or before September 15 (Iowa Code § 282.3)
Kansas	5 on or before August 31 (Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-1107(c))
Kentucky	5 by October 1 (Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 158.030)

Louisiana	5 on or before September 30 (La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 17:151.3, 17:222)
Maine	5 on or before October 15 (Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A § 5201)
Maryland	5 by September 1 (Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-301)
Massachusetts	Local education agency option
Michigan	5 on or before December 1 If the school district has semiannual promotions, a child may enroll in kindergarten for the 2nd semester if he is at least 5 on March 1 of the school year. (Mich. Comp. Laws § 380.1147)
Minnesota	At least 5 on September 1 (Minn. Stat. § 120A.20)
Mississippi	5 on or before September 1 (Mississippi Kindergarten Guidelines)
Missouri	5 before August 1 (Mo. Rev. Stat. § 160.051) The law is different for metropolitan school districts. "All metropolitan school districts...may establish and enforce a regulation which requires that a child shall have attained the age of five for purposes of kindergarten and summer school prior to a kindergarten school term...on or before any date between August first and October first of that year." (Mo. Rev. Stat. § 160.054)
Montana	5 on or before September 10 (Mont Code Ann. § 20-7-117)
Nebraska	Beginning with the 2012-13 school year, children are eligible for kindergarten if they are 5 years old on or before July 31. Children who turn 5 between August 1 and October 15 may be eligible if they perform adequately on a school assessment which determines if a child is capable of kindergarten-level work. (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-214)
Nevada	5 on or before September 30 (Nev. Rev. Stat. § 392.040)
New Hampshire	Not specified in statute
New Jersey	A district may admit to kindergarten "any child over the age of 4 and under the age of 5 and shall admit...any child over the age of 5 and under the age of 6 years who is a resident of the district." (N.J. Stat. Ann. §18A:44-2)
New Mexico	5 before September 1. (N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-13-3)
New York	Local education agency option (N.Y. Educ. § 1712)
North Carolina	5 on or before August 31 (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-364)
North Dakota	5 before August 1 (N.D. Cent. Code § 15.1-06-01)
Ohio	Districts may choose to set the cut-off date for September 30 or August 1. (Oh. Rev. Code Ann. § 3321.01)

Oklahoma	5 on or before September 1 (Okla. Stat. Ann. tit.70 § 18-108)
Oregon	5 on or before September 1 (Or. Rev. Stat. § 336.092)
Pennsylvania	Local education agency option. (Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. 24 P.S. § 5-503)
Puerto Rico	5 when school starts (currently August 31) (This is based on practice and is not specified in statute.)
Rhode Island	5 on or before December 31 (until 1/1/04) 5 on or before September 1 (after 1/1/04) (R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-2-27)
South Carolina	5 on or before September 1 (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-63-20)
South Dakota	5 on or before September 1 (S.D. Codified Laws § 13-28-2)
Tennessee	5 on or before September 30. (Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-201)
Texas	5 on or before September 1. (Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 29-151)
Utah	5 on or before September 2 (Utah Admin. Code § 53A-3-402)
Vermont	5 on or before January 1. Local education agencies may choose to set the kindergarten entrance date between August 31 and January 1. (Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 16 § 1073)
Virgin Islands	5 by December 31 (V.I. Code Ann.17 § 82)
Virginia	5 on or before September 30 (Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-199)
Washington	5 as of midnight August 31. (Wash. Admin. Code § 180-39-010)
West Virginia	5 on or before September 1. (W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-5-18)
Wisconsin	5 on or before September 1. (Wis. Stat. Ann. § 118.14)
Wyoming	5 on or before September 15. (Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21-4-302)

Compulsory School Age

Alabama	7 (Ala. Code § 16-28-3)
Alaska	7 (Alaska Stat. § 14.30.010)
Arizona	6 (Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-802)
Arkansas	5 (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-201)
California	6 (Cal. Educ. Code § 48200)
Colorado	6 (Colo. Rev. Stat. § 22-33-104)
Connecticut	5 (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-184)
Delaware	5 (Del. Code Ann. tit. 14 § 2702)
District of Columbia	5 (D.C. Code Ann. § 38-202)
Florida	6 (Fla. Stat. ch. 232.01)
Georgia	6 (Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-690.1)
Hawaii	6 (Haw. Rev. Stat. § 302A-1132)
Idaho	7 (Idaho Code § 33-202)
Illinois	7 (105 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/26-1)
Indiana	7 (Ind. Code § 20-8.1-3-17)
Iowa	6 (Iowa Code § 299.1A)
Kansas	7 (Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-1111)
Kentucky	6 (Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 159.010)
Louisiana	7 (La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 17:221)
Maine	7 (Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A §5001-A)
Maryland	5 (Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-301(c))
Massachusetts	6 (Mass. Regs. Code tit. 603, § 8.02)
Michigan	6 (Mich. Comp. Laws § 380.1561)
Minnesota	7 (Minn. Stat. § 120A.22)

Mississippi	6 (Miss. Code Ann. § 37-15-9)
Missouri	7 (Mo. Rev. Stat. § 167.031)
Montana	7 (Mont. Code Ann. § 20-5-102)
Nebraska	6 (Neb. Rev. Ann. § 79-201)
Nevada	7 (Nev. Rev. Stat. § 392.040)
New Hampshire	6 (N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. §193:1)
New Jersey	6 (N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:38-25)
New Mexico	5 (N.M. Stat. Ann. §§ 22-1-2 and 22-12-2)
New York	6 (N.Y. Educ. § 3205)
North Carolina	7 (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-378)
North Dakota	7 (N.D. Cent. Code § 15.1-20-01)
Ohio	6 (Oh. Rev. Code Ann. § 3321.01[A][1])
Oklahoma	5 (Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70 § 10-105)
Oregon	7 (Or. Rev. Stat. § 339.020)
Pennsylvania	8 (Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. 24 P.S. § 13-1326)
Puerto Rico	5 (P.R. Laws Ann. § 143b)
Rhode Island	6 (R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-19-1)
South Carolina	5 (S.C. Code Ann. § 49-65-10)
South Dakota	6 (S.D. Codified Laws § 13-27-1)
Tennessee	6 (Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3005)
Texas	6 (Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 25.085)
Utah	6 (Utah Admin. Code § 53A-11-101)
Vermont	6 (Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 16 § 1121)
Virgin Islands	5 (V.I. Code Ann. 17 § 82)
Virginia	5 (Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-199)
Washington	8 (Wash. Admin. Code § 28A.255.010)

West Virginia	6 (W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-8-1)
Wisconsin	6 (Wis. Stat. Ann. § 115.54)
Wyoming	7 (Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21-4-102)

Provision for Early Entry to Kindergarten

Alabama	"An underage child who transfers from the public school kindergarten in another state may be admitted to local public kindergarten on the prior approval of the local board of education on a space available basis." (Ala. Code § 16-28-4)
Alaska	"A child under school age may be admitted to the school in the district of which the child is a resident if immediately before the child became a resident of the district, the child was legally enrolled in the public schools of another district or state...A child under school age may be admitted to the public school in the school district of which the child is a resident at the discretion of the governing body of the school district if the child meets minimum standards prescribed by the board evidencing that the child has the mental, physical, and emotional capacity to perform satisfactorily for the educational program being offered. A district's educational program must prescribe that under school-age students advance through the curriculum or grade level by the following school year." (Alaska Stat. § 14.03.080)
Arizona	If, in consultation with the parent/guardian, the child, the teacher and the school principal, it is determined to be in the best interest of the child, a child may be admitted to kindergarten early. Such child must reach the required age of 5 by January 1 of the current school year. (Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-821)
Arkansas	"Any student who has been enrolled in a state-accredited or state-approved kindergarten program in another state for at least 60 days, who will become 5 years old during the year in which he is enrolled in kindergarten and who meets the basic residency requirement for school attendance, may be enrolled in a kindergarten program in a public school in this state." (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-207)
California	The school district may admit, on a case-by-case basis, a kindergarten child who will turn 5 at any time during the school year providing a) the parent or guardian gives permission, b) the district determines early admittance is in the best interest of the child and c) the parent or guardian is given information regarding the advantages and disadvantages of early admittance. (Cal. Educ. Code § 48000)
Colorado	A child who will be age 4 by October 1 of the current school year and is identified as a "highly advanced gifted child" may enter kindergarten at age 4. (Colo. Rev. Stat. § 22-20-104.5)
Connecticut	"[Local] boards of education may, by vote at a meeting duly called, admit to any school children under 5 years of age." (Conn. Gen. Stat. §10-15c)
Delaware	"Local school authorities may grant exceptions [to the entrance age] for entry into school if they determine that such exception is in the best interest of the child." (Del. Code Ann. tit. 14 § 2702) Parents may request a no cost evaluation of a "potentially gifted child to determine if the child possesses "outstanding mental and cognitive abilities and to determine if the child can demonstrate the social, emotional, and physical maturity, normally expected for successful participation in kindergarten." (Del.

	<p>ADC 14 § 940-1)</p> <p>If the child scores 1.5 standard deviations above the mean score for the assessment instrument used and the child is judged to be mature enough to successfully participate in kindergarten, the child must be admitted to kindergarten in accordance with the "free and appropriate education" requirements of the special education code. (Del. Code Ann. tit.14 § 3101)</p>
District of Columbia	Not specified in statute
Florida	Not specified in statute
Georgia	A child who was a legal resident "of one or more other states for a period of two years immediately prior to moving" to Georgia, and was legally enrolled in kindergarten, shall be eligible for enrollment in kindergarten if the child will attain the age of five by December 31 and "is otherwise qualified." (Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-150)
Hawaii	A junior kindergarten experience is provided for all children who have not reached age 5 by the kindergarten cut-off date (August 1), but will turn 5 by January 1. (Haw. Rev. Stat. § 302A-411(c))
Idaho	Not specified in statute
Illinois	"Based upon a child's readiness to attend school, a school district may permit a child to attend school prior to the dates contained in this section." (105 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/10-20.12)
Indiana	"...[T]he governing body of the school corporation shall adopt a procedure affording a parent of an individual who does not meet the minimum age requirement set forth in this subsection the right to appeal to the superintendent of the school corporation for enrollment of the individual in kindergarten at an age earlier than the age that is set forth" in the statute. (Ind. Code § 20-8.1-3-17)
Iowa	Not specified in statute
Kansas	"Any child who was a resident in another state and who, while residing in such other state, had entered and was in attendance in kindergarten in such state shall be eligible to attend kindergarten in this state, regardless of age." (Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-1107(d))
Kentucky	Not specified in statute
Louisiana	<p>A child may be admitted to kindergarten early "provided that such child has been evaluated and identified as gifted in accordance with the regulations of the state department of education for such evaluation." (La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 17:151.3)</p> <p>During the 2005-2006 school year, the Department of Education piloted Kindergarten Plus in one class in each of the eight regional service districts. Kindergarten Plus provides a full day of kindergarten beginning two months prior to other kindergarten classes. Children are eligible for Kindergarten Plus if they qualify for the federal free and reduced cost lunch program. (La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §</p>

	17:24.7)
Maine	A person who has enrolled in a public kindergarten or 1st grade in another state may enroll in kindergarten or 1st grade in the administrative unit where the parent or guardian become residents. (Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A § 5201)
Maryland	"The local board of education may adopt a regulation permitting a 4-year-old child, upon request by the parent or guardian, to be admitted to kindergarten if the local superintendent of schools or the superintendent's designee determines that the child demonstrates capabilities warranting early admission." (Md. Regs. Code tit. 13A., § 08.01.02) In 2005, Maryland adopted a rule which requires local boards of education to establish regulations for early admission in prekindergarten, kindergarten and 1st grade. (Md. Regs. Code tit. 13A. § 08.01.01)
Massachusetts	Not specified in statute
Michigan	Not specified in statute
Minnesota	Not specified in statute
Mississippi	Not specified in statute
Missouri	Not specified in statute
Montana	Children may enter kindergarten early by "special permission of the board of trustees". (Mont. Code Ann. § 20-7-117)
Nebraska	"The board may admit a child who will reach the age of 5 between October 16 and February 1 of the current school year if the parent or guardian requests such entrance and provides an affidavit stating that (a) the child attended kindergarten in another jurisdiction in the current school year, (b) the family anticipates relocation to another jurisdiction that would allow admission within the current year, or (c) the child has demonstrated through recognized assessment procedures approved by the board that he or she is capable of carrying the work of kindergarten or the beginner grade". (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-214)
Nevada	"If a child is not 5 years of age on or before September 30 of a school year, the child must not be admitted to kindergarten." (Nev. Rev. Stat. § 392.040)
New Hampshire	Not specified in statute
New Jersey	A district may admit to kindergarten "any child over the age of 4 and under the age of 5 and shall admit...any child over the age of 5 and under the age of 6 years who is a resident of the district". (N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:44-2)
New Mexico	Not specified in statute
New York	Not specified in statute
North Carolina	A child who has been enrolled in kindergarten in another state may attend

	kindergarten, regardless of age, if the child is now a legal resident in North Carolina (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-364(c) and (d)). A child who turns 4 on or before April 16 may enter kindergarten during the first month of the school year, if the school principal finds, based on information submitted by the child's parent or guardian, that the child is gifted and that the child has the maturity to justify early admission.
North Dakota	A child may be admitted to kindergarten who will be 5 years old before January 1 and the child, by means of developmental and readiness screening instruments approved by the superintendent of public instruction and administered by the school district, can demonstrate special talents or abilities or has been enrolled in another approved kindergarten. (N.D. Cent. Code § 15.1-06-01)
Ohio	Students may be admitted to kindergarten before they meet the age requirement if they reside in a district with standardized testing programs for determining early entrance. Districts shall establish a pupil personnel services committee to grant waivers for early entrance. (Oh. Rev. Code Ann. § 3321.01)
Oklahoma	"No child shall be enrolled in kindergarten unless he or she will have reached the age of five (5) years on or before September 1 of the school year" (Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70 § 1-114).
Oregon	A district school board may admit a child "whose needs for cognitive, social and physical development would best be met in the school program, as defined by policies of the district school board, to school even though the child has not attained the minimum age requirement." (Or. Rev. Stat. § 336.095)
Pennsylvania	Not specified in statute
Puerto Rico	Not specified in statute
Rhode Island	Not specified in statute
South Carolina	Children who have "substantially initiated a public school kindergarten program in another state" may be admitted to kindergarten in South Carolina regardless of their age. (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-63-20)
South Dakota	Any child who transfers from another state may proceed in a continuous educational program without interruption. (S.D. Codified Laws § 13-28-2)
Tennessee	Not specified in statute
Texas	A student younger than 5 may be admitted to kindergarten if the student performs satisfactorily on the assessment given to 3rd grade students and if the district has adopted a policy for admitting students younger than 5 years of age. (Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 42.003)
Utah	Not specified in statute
Vermont	Not specified in statute
Virgin Islands	Not specified in statute

Virginia	In districts offering a two-tiered, junior or other developmentally appropriate pre-kindergarten program or transitional 1st grade, "children whose 5th birthday occurs between October 1 and December 31 of the school year may be enrolled in kindergarten after an appropriate readiness evaluation has demonstrated that attendance in these programs will educationally benefit such children". (Va. Code Ann.§ 22.1-199)
Washington	Local education agencies may allow early admittance based upon the ability, need or both of an individual student. (Wash. Admin. Code § 28A.225.160)
West Virginia	"A county board may provide for advanced entrance or placement under policies adopted by said board for any child who has demonstrated sufficient mental and physical competency for such entrance or placement." (W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-8-1a)
Wisconsin	Each district must prescribe "procedures, conditions and standards for early admission to kindergarten." The state will not reimburse the district for serving children who have not attained the minimum age required by statute. (Wis. Stat. Ann. §§ 120.12, 121.004)
Wyoming	Not specified in statute

Other Age Issues

Alabama	If a district chooses to offer kindergarten, "children from 5- to 8-years-of-age may be admitted to kindergarten on such terms and conditions which county boards of education may prescribe." (Ala. Code § 16-8-41)
Alaska	Not specified in statute
Arizona	The state board of education may "exclude from grades 1-8 children under six years of age." (Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-342)
Arkansas	Any parent or guardian "may elect for the child not to attend kindergarten if the child will not be age 6 on September 15 of that particular school year." (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-201)
California	The kindergarten readiness pilot program allows selected districts to raise the kindergarten entrance cut-off date to September 1. Children who would have been eligible for kindergarten under the December 2 deadline will be given the opportunity to attend public pre-kindergarten classes instead. (Cal. Educ. Code § 48005)
Colorado	—
Connecticut	"The parent or person having control of a child 6 years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the child is 7 years of age...by personally appearing at the school district office and signing an option form." (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-184)
Delaware	Not specified in statute
District of Columbia	Not applicable
Florida	Not specified in statute
Georgia	Not specified in statute
Hawaii	Not specified in statute
Idaho	Not specified in statute
Illinois	Districts may offer kindergarten to children age 4 to 6. (105 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/10-22.18) However, only 1 year of kindergarten attendance will be paid for by the state "except in case of children who entered the kindergarten in their 5th year whose educational development requires a second year of kindergarten as determined under the rules and regulations of the State Board of Education." (105 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/18-8.05)
Indiana	Not specified in statute

Iowa	"The board may exclude from school children under the age of 6 years when in its judgment such children are not sufficiently mature to be benefited by regular instruction, or any child who is found to be physically or mentally unable to attend school under section 299.5, or whose presence in school has been found to be injurious to the health of other pupils, or is efficiently taught for the scholastic year at a state institution. However, the board shall provide special education programs and services...for all children requiring special education." (Iowa Code § 282.3)
Kansas	Not specified in statute
Kentucky	A child "who is less than 7 years old and is enrolled and in regular attendance in a private kindergarten-nursery school" shall be exempted from compulsory attendance requirements. (Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 159.030)
Louisiana	Not specified in statute
Maine	Under the "Early Childhood Educational Plans for Children Ages 4 to 9," local units may elect to develop "two-year kindergartens. . .to address the needs of 4-year-old children." (Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A § 4252)
Maryland	Maryland raised the entrance age over the years as follows: 2003-04: November 30 2004-05: October 31 2005-06: September 30 2006-07: September 1 (Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-301)
Massachusetts	Not specified in statute
Michigan	Not specified in statute
Minnesota	Not specified in statute
Mississippi	Not specified in statute
Missouri	Not specified in statute
Montana	Not specified in statute
Nebraska	Not specified in statute
Nevada	Not specified in statute
New Hampshire	Not specified in statute
New Jersey	No child under the age of 5 years shall be admitted to any public school, except such as may be provided pursuant to law for children of his age. No board of education shall be required to accept by transfer from public or private school any pupil who was not eligible by reason of age for admission on October 1 of

	that school year, but the board may in its discretion admit any such pupil if he or she meets such entrance requirements as may be established by rules or regulations of the board. (N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:38-5)
New Mexico	Not specified in statute
New York	Kindergarten "shall be free to resident children between the ages of 4 and 6 years, provided, however (each local school board) may fix a higher minimum age for admission to such kindergartens." (N.Y. Educ. § 1712)
North Carolina	None found
North Dakota	Not specified in statute
Ohio	In school districts granting admittance during a term other than one beginning in September or August, a child must be 5 on or before the first day of that term in order to attend kindergarten. (Oh. Rev. Code Ann. § 3321.01)
Oklahoma	Compulsory school attendance for a child from the age at which the child is eligible to attend kindergarten is a condition of participation in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program (Okla Stat. Ann. tit. 56 §230.66)
Oregon	Not specified in statute
Pennsylvania	"The board of school directors in any school district may establish and maintain kindergartens for children between the ages of 4 and 6 years." (Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. 24 P.S. § 5-503) Each district may refuse to accept or retain 1st graders who "have not attained a mental age of 5 years, as determined by the supervisor of special education or a properly certificated public school psychologist." (Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. 24 P.S. §13-304)
Puerto Rico	Not applicable
Rhode Island	Not specified in statute
South Carolina	Districts may choose to admit children to kindergarten or 1st grade before the state entrance age, however the district is not entitled to receive any state aid for students admitted early. (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-63-20)
South Dakota	Not specified in statute
Tennessee	A local board may "provide a procedure for determining the competency of students who have attended kindergarten to advance directly to 2nd grade." (Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3106)
Texas	None
Utah	Not specified in statute
Vermont	Not specified in statute

Virgin Islands	Not applicable
Virginia	A 5-year-old child is compliant with compulsory laws if he is enrolled in any public educational pre-kindergarten program, including a Head Start program, or in a private, denominational or parochial educational pre-kindergarten program. (Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-199)
Washington	Not specified in statute
West Virginia	The state board must establish guidelines for enrollment prior to a child's reaching compulsory school age (6) in districts where school entry and grade promotion is allowed at the semester mark. In such schools, students turning 6 between July 1 and December 31 may enter 1st grade during the first semester, and those turning 6 between January 1 and June 30 may enter during the second semester. (W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-5-400)
Wisconsin	Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in this state.
Wyoming	Not specified in statute

Minimum Required Hours/Days for Kindergarten

Alabama	Not specified in statute
Alaska	Not specified in statute
Arizona	Not specified in statute
Arkansas	Not specified in statute
California	<p>3 hours/day</p> <p>180 minutes, inclusive of recesses</p> <p>Exceptions may be made for districts with fewer than 40 kindergarten pupils. In such cases, the district may apply to the superintendent of public instruction requesting approval to maintain 2 kindergarten classes of 150 minutes each on the same day which are taught by the same teacher. (Cal. Educ. Code §§ 46117 and 46119)</p>
Colorado	<p>450 hours for half-day kindergarten</p> <p>900 hours for full-day kindergarten</p> <p>"In no event shall schools be scheduled to have fewer than four hundred fifty hours of such instruction for a half-day kindergarten program or fewer than nine hundred hours of such instruction for a full-day kindergarten program." (Colo. Rev. Stat. § 22-32-109)</p>
Connecticut	450 hours/year (2.5 hours/day) (Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 10-15, -16)
Delaware	1060 hours/year (Del. Code Ann. tit.14 § 1049)
District of Columbia	Not specified in statute
Florida	3 hours/day, 180 days/year (Fla. Stat. ch. 228.041)
Georgia	"A minimum of four and one-half hours daily for a 180 day school year." (Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-151)
Hawaii	Not specified in statute
Idaho	<p>450 hours/year</p> <p>810 hours/year for grades 1-3 (Idaho Code § 33-512)</p>
Illinois	2 hours/day (105 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/18-8.05)
Indiana	Not specified in statute
Iowa	<p>Not specified in statute</p> <p>The minimum school-day for grades 1-12 is 5.5 hours. (Iowa Code § 256.7)</p>

Kansas	2.5 hours/day Kindergarten programs must meet for not less than 465 hours and not less than 186 days per school year. (Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-1106)
Kentucky	"Kindergarten programs may be operated for less than six hours [per school day] without state board approval." (Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 158.060)
Louisiana	6 hours (La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 17:154, 17:151.3)
Maine	Not specified in statute
Maryland	Not specified in statute
Massachusetts	425 hours/year (Mass. Regs. Code tit. 603, § 27.03)
Michigan	Not specified in statute
Minnesota	425 hours per year (Minn. Stat. § 126C.05)
Mississippi	The length of the school day shall be the same as that of the other grades of the elementary school. (Mississippi Kindergarten Guidelines)
Missouri	574 hours per year; 3 hours per day (Mo. Rev. Stat. § 163.021)
Montana	360 hours per year for half-day kindergarten 720 hours per year for full-time kindergarten (Mont. Code Ann. § 20-1-301)
Nebraska	400 hours per year. (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-212)
Nevada	2 hours per day
New Hampshire	Not specified in statute
New Jersey	Not specified in statute
New Mexico	2.5 hours per day or 450 hours per year. (N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-2-8.1)
New York	Not specified in statute
North Carolina	Same as other grades
North Dakota	To receive full funding, 2.8 hours per day (N.D. Cent. Code § 15.1-27-08) Kindergartens must provide at least the equivalent of thirty full days of instruction on a half-day or full-day basis. This is equivalent to about 1 hour per day. (N.D. Cent. Code § 15.1-22-02)
Ohio	2.5 hours per day. (Oh. Rev. Code Ann. § 3301-35-06)
Oklahoma	6 (Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70 § 18-108)

Oregon	Not specified in statute
Pennsylvania	2 1/2 hours per day (Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. 24 P.S. § 5-503) 180 days per year (Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. 24 P.S. § 15-1504)
Puerto Rico	Not specified in statute
Rhode Island	180 days (R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-2-2)
South Carolina	"The school day for elementary students must be at least 6 hours a day, or its equivalent weekly, including lunch." (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-1-440)
South Dakota	437.5 hours per year (S.D. Codified Laws § 13-26-1)
Tennessee	4 hours (Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-201)
Texas	Not specified in statute
Utah	Not specified in statute
Vermont	Local education agency option. (Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 16 § 1071)
Virgin Islands	Not specified in statute
Virginia	540 hours per year (Va. Code Ann. § 20-131-150)
Washington	450 hours per year, 180 days per year (2.5 hours/day). (Wash. Admin. Code § 28A.150.220, Wash. ADC 180-16-215)
West Virginia	"The programs for children who shall have attained the age of five shall be full-day everyday programs." (W.Va. Code Ann. § 18-5-18)
Wisconsin	437 hours per year 1,050 hours per year (Grades 1-6) 1,137 hours per year (Grades 7-12) (Wis. Stat. Ann. § 121.02)
Wyoming	Not specified in statute

Admission Requirements for Kindergarten

Alabama	Certification of immunization (Ala. Code § 16-30-4)
Alaska	Not specified in statute
Arizona	<p>Proof of age and identity (Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-828)</p> <p>"School districts do not have authority to require a private evaluation for which a fee is charged as a condition of kindergarten admission." (188 Op. Att'y Gen. 095, cited in Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-703)</p> <p>"A child who enrolls in a kindergarten program or grades 1-12 after receiving instruction in a home school program shall be tested. . .in order to determine the appropriate grade level for the educational placement of the child." (Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-745)</p>
Arkansas	Proof of immunization (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-702)
California	Proof of age (Cal. Educ. Code § 48002)
Colorado	None to determine eligibility.
Connecticut	"Each local or regional board of education shall require each child to have a health assessment prior to public school enrollment." (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-206)
Delaware	<p>Proof of immunization (Del. Code Ann. tit. 14 § 131)</p> <p>Proof of lead screening (Del. Code Ann. tit. 14 § 2603)</p>
District of Columbia	Certification of health including certification of immunization and a certificate of testing for lead poisoning (D.C. Code Ann. §§ 38-502, -602)
Florida	<p>Proof of age (Fla. Stat. ch. 232.03)</p> <p>Health certification (Fla. Stat. ch. 232.0315)</p>
Georgia	<p>Official copy of child's social security number (Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-150)</p> <p>Certificate of immunization (Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-771)</p>
Hawaii	Not specified in statute
Idaho	Not specified in statute
Illinois	Children must have a health examination including immunizations within 1 year prior to entering kindergarten. (105 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/27-8.1)
Indiana	Children must receive proper immunization before attending school. (Ind. Code § 20-8.1-7-9.5)
Iowa	Not specified in statute

Kansas	Proof of identity (Kan. Stat. Ann. §§ 72-53, -106)
Kentucky	Not specified in statute
Louisiana	Proof of age and immunization (La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 17:151.3, 17:170) Students who have not completed a full-day kindergarten program must pass a readiness test for entry into 1st grade. Every child entering kindergarten will be given a nationally recognized readiness screening. The results of this screening shall be used in placement and for planning instruction. (La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 17:391.11)
Maine	Not specified in statute
Maryland	Proof of immunization (Md. Regs. Code tit. 10., § 06.04.03)
Massachusetts	Proof of immunization (Mass. Regs. Code tit. 150, § 220.500)
Michigan	Proper immunization (Mich. Comp. Laws § 333.9209) Proof of vision screening (Mich. Comp. Laws § 380.1177) Proof of age and identity (Mich. Comp. Laws § 380.1135)
Minnesota	There is a "mandatory program of early childhood developmental screening for children once before school entrance, targeting children who are between 3 and one-half and 4-years-old...This screening examination is a mandatory requirement for a student to continue attending kindergarten or 1st grade in a public school...A child must not be enrolled in kindergarten...unless the parent or guardian of the child submits...a record indicating...the child received developmental screening and the results of the screening". (Minn. Stat. § 121A.17) The screening shall include developmental assessments, hearing and vision screening, immunization records, height and weight, identification of risk factors, an interview with the parent and referral for assessment, diagnosis and treatment when potential needs are identified. This screening must be performed within the preceding 365 days of a child's enrollment into kindergarten. "The commissioner of education may implement a kindergarten readiness assessment representative of incoming kindergartners. This assessment must be based on the Department of Education Kindergarten Readiness Assessment at kindergarten entrance study". (Minn. Stat. § 124D.162)
Mississippi	A birth certificate, social security number, and immunization record are required for all kindergarten students and shall be presented to the proper school authority. (Mississippi Kindergarten Guidelines)
Missouri	Not specified in statute
Montana	Not specified in statute
Nebraska	A physical examination is required within six months prior to the entrance of a

	child into kindergarten. (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-214)
Nevada	If parents choose not to enroll their child in public school until the age of 7, the child must pass a developmental assessment before being admitted to 1st grade the following year. (Nev. Rev. Stat. § 392.040)
New Hampshire	Not specified in statute
New Jersey	Proof of identity (N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:36-25.1)
New Mexico	Not specified in statute
New York	Proof of immunization (N.Y. Educ. § 914)
North Carolina	Students entering kindergarten must receive a health assessment including a medical history and physical examination with screening for vision and hearing and, if appropriate, testing for anemia and tuberculosis. The assessment may also include dental screening and development screening for cognition, language and motor function. This provision does not apply to private church schools, schools of religious charter or qualified non-public schools. (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 130A-440)
North Dakota	Not specified in statute
Ohio	Proof of immunization. (Oh. Rev. Code Ann. § 3313.671)
Oklahoma	Not specified in statute
Oregon	Proof of immunization (Or. Rev. Stat. § 433.267)
Pennsylvania	Proof of immunization (Pa Cons. Stat. Ann. 24 P.S. 13-1303a)
Puerto Rico	Not specified in statute
Rhode Island	Proof of screening for lead poisoning. (R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-24.6-8)
South Carolina	Not specified in statute
South Dakota	Proof of tuberculosis test and immunizations (S.D. Codified Laws § 13-28-7.1)
Tennessee	Not specified in statute
Texas	Not specified in statute
Utah	Certificate of immunization (Utah Admin. Code § 53A-11-301)
Vermont	Not specified in statute
Virgin Islands	All public, private or parochial school children are provided without cost and required to receive immediately prior or upon entrance into kindergarten or the 1st grade, and upon entrance into the fifth and ninth grades, health services including medical and dental appraisals, tests and treatments, and preventative

	measures such as vaccinations and immunizations. (V.I. Code Ann. 17 §111)
Virginia	Comprehensive physical examination (Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-270) Proof of immunization (Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-271.2) Birth certificate (Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-3.1)
Washington	"Districts may establish uniform entry qualifications, including but not limited to birth date requirements, for admission to kindergarten and 1st grade." (Wash. Admin. Code § 28A.225.160)
West Virginia	Birth certificate (W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-2-5c)
Wisconsin	Proof of vision screening (Wis. Stat. Ann. § 118.135) Proof of immunization (Wis. Stat. Ann. § 120.12)
Wyoming	Proof of immunization (Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21-4-309)

Kindergarten Curriculum - General Info

Alabama	Students in grades K-12 inclusive must "receive instruction regarding how to study." (Ala. Code § 16-40-1.1)
Alaska	<p>"Each district in the state public school system shall be encouraged to initiate and conduct a program in health education for grades K-12." (Alaska Stat. § 14.30.360)</p> <p>"The state board [of education] shall establish guidelines for a health and personal safety education...The board shall encourage each [local] school board to initiate and conduct a program of environmental education for grades K-12." (Alaska Stat. § 14.30.080)</p>
Arizona	Districts providing instruction in grades K-3 must "adopt a scientifically based reading curriculum." (Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-704)
Arkansas	<p>Public school grades K-12 must provide the minimum core curriculum established by the state board of education. (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-104)</p> <p>The director of the state department of education must develop material for teaching African-American History for inclusion in "the appropriate curricula of all kindergarten through grade 12 of all public schools in the state of Arkansas." (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-121)</p> <p>Every kindergarten through grade 9 student that is physically fit and able to participate must receive no less than 1 hour per week, and no less than 20 minutes 3 times a week, of physical education training and instruction. (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-132)</p>
California	Districts with early primary programs (an integrated, experiential and developmentally appropriate educational program for children in preschool, kindergarten and grades 1-3) must provide "a program designed around the abilities and interests of the children in the program and one in which children learn about various subjects simultaneously...through 'hands-on' or 'active learning' teaching methods that are more appropriate for young children than the academic 'textbook' approach." (Cal. Educ. Code § 8971)
Colorado	Drug and alcohol abuse prevention must be taught in grades K-12. (Colo. Rev. Stat. § 22-1-110)
Connecticut	Full-day kindergarten programs receiving money from the early reading success grant program must include language development and appropriate reading readiness experiences in the kindergarten curriculum. (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-265f)
Delaware	"Mandatory drug and alcohol educational programs [must be established] in each grade, kindergarten through grade 12...Mandatory research-based fire safety education [must be established] in grades kindergarten through grade 6." (Del. Code Ann. tit. 14, § 122)
District of Columbia	"The term core curriculum means the concepts, factual knowledge, and skills

	that students in the District of Columbia should learn in kindergarten through grade 12 in academic content areas, including, at a minimum, English, mathematics, science, and history. (D.C. Code Ann. § 38-1800.02)
Florida	The core curriculum for grades K-12 must include mathematics, language arts, science, social studies, reading and literature. (Fla. Stat. ch. 1006.40)
Georgia	"All elementary and secondary schools which receive any manner of funds from the state shall provide...a course of study in the background, history and development of the federal and state governments...a course of study in the history of the United States and in the history of Georgia." (Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-144) "Each local board of education shall prescribe mandatory instruction concerning alcohol and other drug use in every year in every grade from kindergarten through grade 12." (Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-144)
Hawaii	Not specified in statute
Idaho	"It is legislative intent that curricular materials utilized by school districts for kindergarten through grade 3 shall align with the 'Idaho Comprehensive Literacy Plan.'" (Idaho Code § 33-1614)
Illinois	Students in each of grades K-8 must receive instruction "of effective methods by which pupils may recognize the danger of and avoid abduction," and "for the prevention and avoidance of drug and substance abuse." (105 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/27-13.2)
Indiana	The state department of education must "develop curriculum for health and physical education for grades kindergarten through 12." (Ind. Code § 20-1-1.17) "The governing body of each school corporation shall for each grade from kindergarten through grade 12 provide instruction concerning the effects that alcoholic beverages, tobacco, prescription drugs, and controlled substances have on the human body and society at large." (Ind. Code § 20-10.1-4-9.1) The curriculum program for each of grades K-12 must be consistent with the academic standards established by the state board of education for English/language arts, mathematics, social studies and science. (Ind. Code § 20-10.1-16-6)
Iowa	"The kindergarten program shall include experiences designed to develop healthy emotional and social habits and growth in the language arts and communication skills, as well as a capacity for the completion of individual tasks, and protect and increase physical well-being with attention given to experiences relating to the development of life skills and human growth and development." (Iowa Code § 256.11) "The department of education shall develop a statewide violence prevention program...for grades kindergarten through 12." (Iowa Code § 280.9B)
Kansas	Not specified in statute
Kentucky	Not specified in statute

Louisiana	<p>The state department of education must develop a "balanced early childhood reading initiative" for students in kindergarten through grade 3. The program must be applicable for all kindergarten through grade 3 students, including students in special education. The program must provide phonics as a component of instruction. (La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 17:24.9, 17:404)</p> <p>Every student in kindergarten through grade 9 must receive a minimum of 16 hours/year of grade-appropriate instruction in alcohol, drug and substance abuse prevention, education, information and counseling.</p>
Maine	<p>"The basic course of study for the elementary schools must provide for the instruction of all students in career preparation, English language arts, foreign languages, health and physical education, mathematics, science and technology, social studies and visual and performing arts...the course of study must also include physiology and hygiene, with special reference to the effects of substance abuse, including alcohol, tobacco and narcotics upon the human system." (Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A § 4711)</p>
Maryland	<p>"Each public school shall have a program of physical education that is given in a planned and sequential manner to all students, grades K-12." (Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-409).</p> <p>Each local school system shall provide an instructional program in grades K-8 in the following subjects: 1) Reading (Md. Regs. Code tit. 13A., § 04.06.02), 2) Social Studies (Md. Regs. Code tit. 13A., § 04.08.01), 3) Science (Md. Regs. Code tit. 13A., § 04.09.01), 4) Mathematics (Md. Regs. Code tit. 13A., § 04.12.01), 5) Physical Education (Md. Regs. Code tit. 13A., § 04.13.01), 6) English Language Arts (Md. Regs. Code tit. 13A., § 04.14.01), 7) Fine Arts (art, music, dance, theatre) (Md. Regs. Code tit. 13A., § 04.16.01), 8) Comprehensive Health Education (Md. Regs. Code tit. 13A., § 04.18.01)</p>
Massachusetts	<p>Core subjects in elementary and secondary schools are "mathematics, science and technology, history and social science, English, foreign languages and the arts." (Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 69, § 1D)</p> <p>American history and civics must be taught in all elementary and high schools. (Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 71 § 2)</p> <p>"The [state] department of education...is directed...to establish a task force for the purpose of developing a model curriculum for grades K-12 in global education and international studies...The department shall encourage each school district to implement this curriculum or a variation thereof." (Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 71 § 1)</p> <p>"The advisory council on violence prevention...shall recommend for approval by the board of education a model curriculum for grades K-12 in education programs on violence prevention...The department shall encourage school districts to implement said curriculum or a variation thereof." (Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 71 § 1)</p>
Michigan	Not specified in statute
Minnesota	Not specified in statute

Mississippi	Teachers are to use, at a minimum, the resources developed by the Mississippi Department of Education in curriculum planning such as the Mississippi Curriculum Frameworks. Other additional resources may be added as desired by each school district. (Miss. Code Ann. § 36 000 071[1.6])
Missouri	Not specified in statute
Montana	Not specified in statute
Nebraska	Each school district "shall develop for incorporation into all phases of the curriculum of grades kindergarten through 12 a multicultural education program". (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-720) Each school "shall provide regular periods of instruction in the subject of fire dangers and in methods of fire prevention". (Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-706) Pupils in all public schools shall be instructed "in a comprehensive health education program, which shall include instruction (1) as to the physiological, psychological and sociological aspects of drug use, misuse and abuse and (2) on mental retardation and other developmental disabilities...their causes and the prevention thereof through proper nutrition and the avoidance of the consumption of drugs". (NE ST § 79-712) All grades below the 6th grade shall devote at least one hour per week to patriotic instruction and the teaching of American history. (NE ST § 79-724) "Each teacher employed to give instruction in any public, private, parochial, or denominational school in the State of Nebraska shall arrange and present his or her instruction to give special emphasis to common honesty, morality, courtesy, obedience to law, respect for the national flag, the United States Constitution, and the Constitution of Nebraska, respect for parents and the home, the dignity and necessity of honest labor, and other lessons of a steadying influence which tend to promote and develop an upright and desirable citizenry". (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-725)
Nevada	Not specified in statute
New Hampshire	Not specified in statute
New Jersey	Kindergarten students are specifically exempted from physical education classes which are required for students in grades 1-12. (N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:35-7). Drug prevention education is required in each grade from K-12. (N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:40A-1)
New Mexico	Full-day kindergarten must be child-centered and developmentally appropriate. (N.M.Stat. Ann. § 22-2-79) Specific instructional requirements for kindergarten do not exist in statute as they do for grades 1-12. (N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-2-8.3)
New York	Prekindergarten and kindergarten programs operated by public schools and voluntarily registered nonpublic schools "shall adopt and implement curricula, aligned with the State learning standards, that ensures continuity with instruction in the early elementary grades and is integrated with the instructional program in grades one through 12." This curriculum must provide "an early literacy and emergent reading program based on effective, evidence-based instructional practices including: background knowledge; phonological awareness; expressive and receptive language;

	<p>vocabulary development; phonemic awareness; fluency; and comprehension."</p> <p>The instructional program for prekindergarten and kindergarten shall be based on the ages, interests, strengths and needs of the children. Learning experiences in such programs shall include; differentiated instruction to support the acquisition of new concepts and skills; materials and equipment which allow for active and quiet play in indoor and outdoor environments; instruction in the content area of English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies and the arts, including dance, music, theater and visual arts; that is designed to facilitate student attainment of the State learning standards and is aligned with the instructional program in the early elementary grades; opportunities for participation in inquiry-based activities and projects; opportunities to use a wide variety of information in print and electronic mediums; fine and gross motor activities in prekindergarten, and instruction in physical education in kindergarten...instruction on...health education for students in kindergarten." (8 N.Y. ADC 100.3)</p> <p>Students in grades K-12 shall receive instruction in civility, citizenship and character education. (N.Y. Educ. § 801-a)</p> <p>All elementary school students shall receive instruction regarding alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. (N.Y. Educ. § 804)</p>
North Carolina	<p>Drug and alcohol use prevention education and health education must be available to every child in North Carolina schools in grades kindergarten through high school. (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-81)</p> <p>Schools serving kindergarten and 1st grade students must include in their school improvement plan a plan for preparing students to read at grade level by the time they enter 2nd grade. (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-105.27)</p> <p>The North Carolina State Board of Education Policy Manual delineates the "North Carolina Standard Course of Study for Grades K-12" in the following subjects: 1. Mathematics</p> <p>2. Social Studies</p> <p>3. English Language Arts</p> <p>4. Computer and Technology Skills</p> <p>5. Healthful Living</p> <p>6. Science</p> <p>7. Information Skills (N.C. State Board of Education Policy Manual HSP-F-002 through HSP-F-010)</p>
North Dakota	<p>Kindergartens must follow a developmentally appropriate curriculum. (N.D. Cent. Code § 15.1-22-02)</p>
Ohio	<p>The State Board of Education requires the use of phonics as a technique in the teaching of reading in grades K-3. (Oh. Rev. Code Ann. § 3301-33-01) The state board of education shall adopt model curricula for reading, writing and mathematics for each of grades K-12. These curricula must be sufficient to meet the needs of students in every community and must be aligned with state standards. Districts are not required to use the model curricula. (Oh. Rev. Code</p>

	<p>Ann. § 3301.079[B]) After completing the model curriculum for reading, writing and mathematics, the board must adopt model curricula for fine arts and foreign language for grades K-12. (OH ST § 3301.0718) School districts are required to prescribe curriculum to schools. Prescribed curriculum must include language arts, geography, U.S. history, mathematics, natural science, health education, nutrition, drug abuse prevention, venereal disease education, physical education, fine arts, first aid and, for grades K-6, instruction in personal safety and assault prevention. (Oh. Rev. Code Ann. § 3313.60)</p>
Oklahoma	<p>"A kindergarten program shall be directed toward developmentally appropriate objectives for such children" (Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70 § 10-105).</p> <p>Kindergartens are expected to meet standards in eight curriculum areas (see Kindergarten Standards). "The Oklahoma State Board of Education has identified languages (foreign, Native American, American Sign Language) as core curriculum along with science, mathematics, social studies, language arts, and the arts (visual art and general music). All districts are required to implement a sequential program of study of at least one language other than English in the curriculum" (Okla. ADC 201:15-5-151).</p>
Oregon	<p>The Early Childhood Improvement Program requires efforts to improve kindergarten through 3rd grade curriculum so that it is consistent with research and sensitive to individual differences. (Or. Rev. Stat. § 329-237)</p> <p>The state board of education and each school district shall provide instructional materials on explicit phonics with decodable text from which classroom teachers may select for use as part of the reading instruction program in grades K-2. (Or. Rev. Stat. § 337.275)</p>
Pennsylvania	<p>"Each public school student shall receive mandatory instruction in alcohol, chemical and tobacco abuse in every year in every grade from kindergarten through grade 12." (Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. 24 P.S. §15)</p>
Puerto Rico	<p>The secretary of education establishes basic curriculum for the public education system flexible enough to enable the schools to adapt it to their particular needs. Kindergarten is treated the same as all other grades. (P.R. Laws Ann. § 145t)</p> <p>One function of community schools is to study, know and determine the particular needs, interests and strengths of the community they serve to develop a curriculum that will respond to it. (P.R. Laws Ann. 2520)</p>
Rhode Island	<p>There is a "mandated state health education, alcohol and substance abuse curriculum for grades K-12." (R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-1-5)</p> <p>Each district must draft a strategic plan which "include strategies to improve the performance of students in mathematics, reading, and writing. Each plan must describe a scientific research-based, as described in the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001,...reading instruction [plan] to improve the reading skills of all students in the early grades (kindergarten through grade 3)" (R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-7.1-2)</p> <p>All K-3 classes must focus instruction for all students on "literacy: reading, writing, speaking, listening and mathematics." (R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-67-2)</p>
South Carolina	<p>Students in grades K-5 must receive comprehensive health education including community health, consumer health, environmental health, growth and</p>

	<p>development, nutritional health, personal health, prevention and control of diseases and disorders, safety and accident prevention, substance use and abuse, dental health and mental and emotional health. (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-32-30)</p> <p>The state board of education must develop an early childhood development initiative plan that includes the "development and implementation of a developmentally appropriate curriculum from early childhood education through grade 3." (SC ST § 59-139-10)</p> <p>Each school must provide instruction in "orthography, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, English grammar and instruction in phonics, the elements of agriculture, the history of the United States and of [South Carolina], the principles of the Constitutions of the United States and of [South Carolina], morals and good behavior, algebra, physiology and hygiene (especially as to the effects of alcoholic liquors and narcotics upon the human system) and English literature." (SC ST § 59-29-10)</p>
South Dakota	Not specified in statute
Tennessee	<p>The curriculum and program structure for children in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and grades 1-3 shall be organized to support developmentally appropriate practice. (Tenn. Code Ann. § 0520-1-3-.05)</p> <p>Instruction in the following subjects shall be provided and shall be based on the state curriculum standards:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Language arts 2. Mathematics 3. Science 4. Social studies 5. Health, physical education and wellness 6. Fine arts (visual arts, music, theater arts and dance) 7. Computer technology
Texas	"Each school district that offers kindergarten through grade 12 shall offer, as a required curriculum...English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, health, physical education, fine arts, economics, career and technology education, technology applications and, to the extent possible, languages other than English." (Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 28.002)
Utah	Not specified in statute
Vermont	Not specified in statute
Virgin Islands	The board of education adopts curricula and courses of study for all grades. (V.I. Code Ann. § 21)
Virginia	Local school boards must implement programs in grades K-3 that "emphasize developmentally appropriate learning to enhance success", (Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-253.13:1[D][1])

	"In the elementary grades of every public school the following subjects shall be taught: Spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, geography, health and physical education, drawing, civil government, history of the United States and history of Virginia." (Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-200)
Washington	Not specified in statute
West Virginia	"The state board shall adopt a 3-year plan to provide for the transition to developmental programming and instruction to be provided to the students in kindergarten through 4th grade." (W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-2-5)
Wisconsin	In the elementary grades, including kindergarten, regular instruction must be given in reading, language arts, social studies, mathematics, science, health, physical education, art and music. (Wis. Stat. Ann. § 121.02) Each school district shall "develop and coordinate a comprehensive reading curriculum in grades K-12." (Wis. Stat. Ann. § 118.015)
Wyoming	Foreign languages instruction must be provided for students in grades K-2 (Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21-9-101) Instruction in the United States and Wyoming constitutions must be provided in at least 3 of the grades K-8. (Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21-9-202)

Kindergarten Standards - General Info

Alabama	Not specified in statute
Alaska	Not specified in statute
Arizona	"Each school district that establishes a kindergarten program shall offer half-day kindergarten programs that provide academically meaningful instruction in each of the academic standards adopted by the state board of education." (Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-704)
Arkansas	<p>The state department of education must develop model standards in the basic core of knowledge and skills required of students in the public schools. The department must make these model standards available to every school district and local districts must distribute them to every parent of a child in public schools. (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-1012)</p> <p>The state department of education must also determine and prepare a list of the skills that a child should have in order to be prepared when entering kindergarten. The department must prepare the list in such a way that it will assist parents in preparing their children for kindergarten. The list shall be available to parents on the department's website and from the department by mail if requested. State statute does not address standards that must be met before a child may be admitted to kindergarten. (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-105)</p>
California	"Not later than January 1, 1998, the state board of education shall adopt statewide, academically rigorous content standards. . .in the core curriculum areas of reading, writing, mathematics, history/social science and science..." (Cal. Educ. Code § 60605)
Colorado	The state board shall determine the satisfactory reading readiness level for kindergarten pupils. (Colo. Rev. Stat. § 22-7-504)
Connecticut	The state board of education must adopt computer technology competency standards for students in grades K-12. (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-262p)
Delaware	Not specified in statute
District of Columbia	<p>The superintendent is required to implement promotion gates for mathematics, reading, and writing for kindergarten and other grades. (D.C. Code Ann. § 38-1803.21)</p> <p>Promotion gates are to be provided in accordance with the World Class School Task Force, to recommend standards that are world class in quality and rigor to the superintendent, the board of education, and the District of Columbia Goals Panel for adoption. (D.C. Code Ann. § 38-1803.11)</p>
Florida	Not specified in statute
Georgia	Not specified in statute

Hawaii	Not specified in statute
Idaho	Not specified in statute
Illinois	Not specified in statute
Indiana	The department of education must develop academic standards in English/language arts, mathematics, social studies and science for each grade level from kindergarten through grade 12. The standards must be comparable to national and international academic standards. (Ind. Code §§ 20-10.1-16-6, 20-10.1-17-3)
Iowa	Not specified in statute
Kansas	State statute specifies that by January 15, 2001, the state board of education must identify reading standards for kindergarten and each of grades 1-3. The board must also prepare a plan for monitoring the progress of pupils in kindergarten and each applicable grade level. (Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-7534)
Kentucky	Not specified in statute
Louisiana	Not specified in statute
Maine	Not specified in statute
Maryland	<p>Each county board's comprehensive master plan must include goals, objectives and strategies regarding the performance of kindergarten students. (Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 5-401(d)(4))</p> <p>In 2005 the state department of education developed a plan for the accreditation of all existing early learning programs and child care programs that are planning to provide or are currently providing full-time kindergarten classes or publicly funded prekindergarten programs for low-income 4-year olds in the state.</p>
Massachusetts	The state board of education shall establish "statewide educational goals for all public elementary and secondary schools in the core subjects of math, science and technology, history and social science, English, foreign languages and the arts. The standards shall cover grades K-12 and shall clearly set forth the skills, competencies and knowledge expected to be possessed by all students at the conclusion of individual grades or clusters of grades." (Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 69 § 1D)
Michigan	Not specified in statute
Minnesota	Not specified in statute
Mississippi	Not specified in statute
Missouri	Not specified in statute
Montana	Not specified in statute

Nebraska	Not specified in statute
Nevada	The academic standards council must establish standards of content and performance in kindergarten for English and mathematics. (Nev. Rev. Stat. § 389.520)
New Hampshire	Not specified in statute
New Jersey	Not specified in statute
New Mexico	There are no standards specifically required for kindergarten. (N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-2-8)
New York	Not specified in statute
North Carolina	The state board of education must develop a plan to create rigorous student academic performance standards for grades K-8. Whenever possible, the performance standards must align with the standards developed for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115(c)-105.40)
North Dakota	Not specified in statute
Ohio	<p>Statute requires the state board of education to adopt statewide academic standards in reading, writing, mathematics, science and social studies for grades K-12. (Oh. Rev. Code Ann. § 3301.079[A1])</p> <p>After completing the standards for reading, writing and mathematics, the board must adopt standards for fine arts and foreign language for grades K-12. (Oh. Rev. Code Ann. § 3301.0718)</p>
Oklahoma	<p>State code provides kindergarten standards in the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creative skills (Okla. ADC 210:15-5-5-2) 2. Language arts (Okla. ADC 210:15-5-5.3) 3. Mathematics (OK ADC 210:15-5-5.4) 4. Motor skill and lifetime activity development (Okla. ADC 210:15-5-5.5) 5. Science (Okla. ADC 210:15-5-5.6) 6. Social skills (Okla. ADC 210:15-5-5.7) 7. Social studies (Okla. ADC 210:15-5-5.8) 8. Languages (Okla. ADC 210:15-5-153).
Oregon	The state board of education must establish state standards for public kindergartens and elementary schools in mathematics, science, history, geography, economics, civics, English and physical education. (Or. Rev. Stat. §§ 326.051 and 329.045)
Pennsylvania	Not specified in statute
Puerto Rico	The secretary of education drafts standards that are applied to all schools and all

	grades. (P.R. Laws Ann. § 145o)
Rhode Island	Although not specified in statute, Rhode Island has created kindergarten Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) in reading, oral and written communication, and mathematics. (www.ride.ri.gov/standards/gle/default.htm)
South Carolina	"The state board of education is directed to adopt grade specific performance-oriented educational standards in the core academic areas of mathematics, English/language arts, social studies (history, government, economics and geography) and science for kindergarten through 12th grade..." (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-18-300)
South Dakota	The secretary of the Department of Education shall prepare and submit for approval of the South Dakota Board of Education academic content standards in language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science for kindergarten through grade twelve. Each school shall adopt and implement clearly defined and measurable guidelines so as to meet the state academic content standards. (S.D. Codified Laws § 13-3-48)
Tennessee	"The commissioner of education shall, while being mindful of the Southern Regional Education Board's Goals for Education: CHALLENGE 2000, develop long-term, quantifiable goals for Tennessee kindergarten through grade 12 education, to be known as "TENNESSEE CHALLENGE 2000." (Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-5-5024)
Texas	Not specified in statute
Utah	Not specified in statute
Vermont	The state board shall "implement and continually update standards for student performance in appropriate content areas and at appropriate intervals in the continuum from kindergarten to grade 12." (Vt. Stat. Ann. tit.16 § 164)
Virgin Islands	Not specified in statute
Virginia	Not specified in statute
Washington	Not specified in statute
West Virginia	Not specified in statute
Wisconsin	Not specified in statute
Wyoming	Not specified in statute

Kindergarten Assessment - General Info

Alabama	Not specified in statute
Alaska	<p>"The [state] department [of education] shall develop a comprehensive system of student assessments, composed of multiple indicators of proficiency in reading, writing and mathematics [that includes] a developmental profile for students entering kindergarten or 1st grade." (Alaska Stat. § 14.07.020)</p> <p>"A vision and hearing screening examination shall be given to each child attending school in the state. The examination shall be made when the child enters school or as soon thereafter as is practicable, and at regular intervals specified by regulation by the governing body of the district."(Alaska Stat. § 14.30.127)</p>
Arizona	<p>"A child who enrolls in a kindergarten program or grades 1-12 after receiving instruction in a home school program shall be tested...in order to determine the appropriate grade level for the educational placement of the child." (Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-475)</p> <p>Districts providing instruction in grades K-3 must select and administer "screening, ongoing diagnostic and classroom based instructional reading assessments" to monitor student progress. (Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-704)</p>
Arkansas	<p>Each school district in the state shall, using guidelines developed by the state department of education, conduct individual readiness testing on each child entering kindergarten. The results of such testing must be provided to the child's parents prior to the child's first day of school. (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-203)</p> <p>The state department of education must require each public school serving students in grades K-4 to "develop, select and implement ongoing, informal assessments linked to the Arkansas frameworks." Any student in grades K-1 "failing to perform at the proficient level in reading and writing literacy or mathematics shall be evaluated as early as possible within each of the K-1 academic years." (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-15-420)</p>
California	<p>All kindergarten students must be screened to determine which pupils have a potential for developing learning disability problems. (Cal. Educ. Code § 49580)</p> <p>Districts with early primary programs (an integrated, experiential and developmentally appropriate educational program for children in preschool, kindergarten and grades 1-3) must use observation over time and portfolio material as the primary sources of assessment information for making curricular decisions. Standardized assessment tests may be used for diagnostic purposes only and shall not be used to deny admission. (Cal. Educ. Code § 8972)</p> <p>Schools participating in the Early Intervention for School Success Program must use a collaborative school team approach to plan instruction based on an initial assessment of each student validated and supported by on-going multiple assessment techniques of the instructional learning needs of students in preschool and grades K-2. (Cal. Educ. Code § 56485.9)</p>
Colorado	Vision and hearing screenings must be provided to all children in grades K-3 and

	<p>in grades 5, 7 and 9. (Colo. Rev. Stat. § 22-1-116)</p> <p>Each school district shall annually assess the reading readiness or literacy reading comprehension level of each pupil enrolled in kindergarten or 1st, 2nd or 3rd grade. The state board must approve instruments for assessing the reading readiness of each kindergarten student and provide a list of approved instruments to each school district. (Colo. Rev. Stat. § 22-7-504)</p>
Connecticut	<p>Hearing and vision screenings must be provided to each student in grades K-3. (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-214)</p> <p>Each local and regional board of education must establish a process for assessing students in grades K-3 who are at risk of failing to learn to read by the end of 1st grade. (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-221h)</p> <p>Full-day kindergarten programs receiving money from the early reading success grant program must provide for the assessment of a student's progress. (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-265f)</p>
Delaware	<p>Schools must annually assess students in grades K-10. "The assessment must be linked to the Delaware Student Testing Program in reading, writing and math." (Del. Code Ann. tit. 14 §§ 141, 1270)</p>
District of Columbia	<p>The superintendent is required to implement promotion gates for mathematics, reading, and writing for kindergarten and other grades. (D.C. Code Ann. § 38-1803.21)</p> <p>Promotion gates are to be provided in accordance with the World Class School Task Force, to recommend assessments for measuring student achievement in accordance with content standards to the superintendent, the board of education, and the District of Columbia Goals Panel for adoption. (D.C. Code Ann. § 38-1803.11)</p>
Florida	<p>"All school districts [are required to] administer the kindergarten uniform screening to each kindergarten student...upon the student's entry into kindergarten." (Fla. Stat. ch. 229.567)</p> <p>The department of education must develop the screening so that it provides objective data on the following expectations for school readiness:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Immunizations and other health requirements including vision and hearing; (2) The child's physical development; (3) The child's compliance with rules, limitations and routines; (4) The child's ability to perform tasks; (5) The child's interactions with adults; (6) The child's interactions with peers; (7) The child's ability to cope with challenges; (8) The child's self-help skills; (9) The child's ability to express his or her needs; (10) The child's verbal communication skills;

	<p>(11) The child's problem-solving skills;</p> <p>(12) The child's ability to follow verbal directions;</p> <p>(13) The child's demonstration of curiosity, persistence and exploratory behavior;</p> <p>(14) The child's interest in books and other printed materials;</p> <p>(15) The child's ability to pay attention to stories;</p> <p>(16) The child's participation in art and music activities; and</p> <p>(17) The child's ability to identify colors, shapes, letters, numbers and spatial and temporal relationships.</p> <p>(Fla. Stat. ch. 1008.21)</p>
Georgia	<p>Children are assessed for 1st grade readiness at the end of kindergarten. "Readiness information...[is] used by local school systems in concert with teacher recommendations and other relevant information to make appropriate student grade placement decisions." (Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-151)</p>
Hawaii	<p>Not specified in statute</p>
Idaho	<p>All public school students in grades K-3 will have their reading skills assessed. "The kindergarten assessment shall include reading readiness and phonological awareness." (Idaho Code § 33-1614)</p>
Illinois	<p>All children in kindergarten in any public, private, or parochial school shall have a dental examination. Each of these children shall present proof of having been examined by a dentist before May 15th of the school year. (105 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/27-8.1)</p>
Indiana	<p>Children must have their vision tested upon enrollment in either kindergarten or 1st grade. (Ind. Code § 20-8.1-7-16)</p>
Iowa	<p>"The board of directors of each public school district shall incorporate, into the kindergarten admissions program, criteria and procedures for identification and integration of at-risk children and their developmental needs." (Iowa Code § 280.19)</p>
Kansas	<p>Not specified in statute</p>
Kentucky	<p>Not specified in statute</p>
Louisiana	<p>"Developmental readiness student screening for placement and for planning instruction shall occur upon initial school entry into kindergarten." (La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 17:24.4)</p> <p>"Every child in public school in grades K-3 shall be screened, at least once, for the existence of impediments to successful school experience." These impediments include dyslexia and related disorders, attention deficit disorder and social and environmental factors that put a child "at risk." (La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 17:391.11, 17:392.1)</p>
Maine	<p>The "Early Childhood Educational Plans for Children Ages 4 to 9" legislation states, "the initiatives local units may elect to develop may include, but not be</p>

	limited to & establish[ing] or expand[ing] preschool or early childhood screening programs and the development of individualized educational prescription based on the findings of the screening." (Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20A § 4252)
Maryland	<p>"Each local school system shall provide to the Department by December 1 of each year information about school readiness of students entering kindergarten as measured by a Department-approved kindergarten assessment system in the following areas:</p> <p>A. Personal and social development; B. Language and literacy; C. Mathematical thinking; D. Scientific thinking; E. Social studies; F. Arts; and G. Physical development."</p> <p>(Md. Regs. Code tit. 13A., § 08.01.02-3)</p>
Massachusetts	"Any child entering kindergarten must have a comprehensive health and developmental examination." (Mass. Regs. Code tit. 130, § 433.484)
Michigan	Not specified in statute
Minnesota	<p>There is a "mandatory program of early childhood developmental screening for children once before school entrance, targeting children who are between 3 and one half and 4-years-old...This screening examination is a mandatory requirement for a student to continue attending kindergarten or 1st grade in a public school...A child must not be enrolled in kindergarten...unless the parent or guardian of the child submits...a record indicating...the child received developmental screening and the results of the screening" (Minn. Stat. § 121A.17).</p> <p>The screening shall include developmental assessments, hearing and vision screening, immunization records, height and weight, identification of risk facts, an interview with the parent and referral for assessments, diagnosis and treatment when potential needs are identified. This screening must be performed within the preceding 365 days of a child's enrollment into kindergarten. (Minn. Stat. § 121A.17)</p>
Mississippi	Not specified in statute
Missouri	Not specified in statute
Montana	Not specified in statute
Nebraska	Not specified in statute
Nevada	Not specified in statute
New Hampshire	Not specified in statute

New Jersey	"A screening of hearing examination shall be conducted on each pupil during the school year." (N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:40-4)
New Mexico	<p>"The department of education shall involve local school district personnel, especially certified elementary reading specialists, in the development of methods on a statewide basis to measure student reading performance in order to assist school districts in the assessment of student problem areas in kindergarten through 3rd grade. The assessment shall provide a means of demonstrating continuous progress in reading and diagnostic information on phonics, phonemic awareness and comprehension." (N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-2-8.5)</p> <p>The Assessment and Accountability Act, signed into law in 2003, requires the state board of education to establish statewide assessment and performance standards that measure adequate yearly progress for each student, public school and district. Testing requirements include diagnostic and standards-based tests on reading for students in grades K-2. These assessments must include measures for phonemic awareness, phonics and comprehension and must be implemented by the 2003-04 school year.</p> <p>The department of education shall require schools with full-day kindergarten programs to conduct age-appropriate assessments to determine the placement of students at instructional level and the effectiveness of child-centered, developmentally appropriate kindergarten." (N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-2-19)</p>
New York	Not specified in statute
North Carolina	"By January 1 of each year, every kindergarten child's health must be assessed." (N.C. State Board of Education Policy Manual HSP-J-000)
North Dakota	Not specified in statute
Ohio	<p>By July 1, 2007, the state board of education must adopt a diagnostic assessment aligned with state standards in reading, writing and mathematics for each of grades K-2. Districts will be required to administer the diagnostic assessments when they become available. Districts identified as "excellent" by the state department of education may use an alternative diagnostic assessment to assess students. (Oh. Rev. Code Ann. § 3301.079 [D2])</p> <p>All students enrolled for the first time in either kindergarten or 1st grade must be screened for hearing, vision, speech and communications, health or medical problems and for any developmental disorders. (OH ST § 3313.673)</p>
Oklahoma	<p>Statute requires the development and implementation of a readiness screening for all public kindergarten students prior to entry into 1st grade. Results of the screening must be made available to the child's parent or guardian, teacher and school district administration. (Okla. Stat. Ann. tit.70 § 1210.282)</p> <p>"A student's progress should be monitored throughout the kindergarten year by administering informal phonemic awareness assessments." (Okla. ADC 210:15-5-11)</p>
Oregon	Not specified in statute
Pennsylvania	Not specified in statute

Puerto Rico	The standards drafted by the secretary of education refer to matters including tests to measure progress, performance goals for the various grades, and other means for evaluating the operations of the schools. (P.R. Laws Ann. § 145o)
Rhode Island	"Districts...are required to screen all children prior to, or upon, their first entry to school to determine their level of educational readiness." (R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-67-2)
South Carolina	<p>The state board of education shall "establish a state basic skill assessment program that shall include the administration of all public school students at the beginning of grade 1 a readiness test that will be designed to measure a student's readiness to begin the formal school curriculum. The results of the readiness test shall be used to provide appropriate developmental activities in the 1st grade. (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-30-10)</p> <p>All public school boards shall "adopt appropriate policies to ensure that continuous assessment is made of an individual student's progress in relation to the statewide minimum standards of student achievement for kindergarten through grades 1, 2, 3, 6, 8 and 11." (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-30-30)</p>
South Dakota	Not specified in statute
Tennessee	<p>"Assessment of pre-kindergarten and kindergarten children shall emphasize the use of observational data and other assessments that support the delivery of an individualized, developmentally appropriate program. Standardized or formalized testing may be administered to pre-kindergarten and kindergarten children only for the purposes of diagnosing special education needs, developing services to support mainstreaming of children with disabilities, and/or for meeting any required federal program eligibility standards. Each local school system shall adopt and implement a comprehensive developmental assessment program for kindergarten children, to be used in developing instructional programs for kindergarten children. (Tenn. Code Ann. § 0520-1-3-.05)</p> <p>"Every school district shall test and examine...each child attending the public and private schools within its boundaries in order to determine whether such child is disabled." (TN ST § 49-10-108)</p>
Texas	Not specified in statute
Utah	Each potential kindergarten students...may participate in an assessment of the student's reading and numeric skills.... in the spring prior to the kindergarten year but no later than June 15...The kindergarten student's teacher may use the assessment in planning and developing an instructional program to meet the student's identified needs. Based on the assessment...the school shall provide the student's parent or guardian with appropriate resource materials to assist them at home in the student's literacy development." (Utah Admin. Code § 53A-3-402.9)
Vermont	The state board shall "implement and continually update...methods of assessment to determine attainment of the standards for student performance." (Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 16 §164)

Virgin Islands	Not specified in statute
Virginia	Not specified in statute
Washington	State statute requires the Washington commission on student learning to make recommendations regarding a statewide accountability system for reading in grades K-4 by November 1, 1997. Recommendations for an accountability system in the other subject areas and grade levels are to be made no later than June 30, 1999. (Wash. Admin. Code § 28A.655.060)
West Virginia	"All children entering public school for the first time...shall be given...screening tests to determine if they might have vision or hearing impairments or speech and language disabilities." Upon the request of a parent, county boards must provide developmental screening for children under compulsory school entrance age. (W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-5-17)
Wisconsin	Not specified in statute
Wyoming	Not specified in statute

State Pays for Early Entry Kindergarten Students?

Alabama	Not applicable
Alaska	No
Arizona	No
Arkansas	No
California	No
Colorado	Not specified in statute
Connecticut	No
Delaware	Only if child is deemed a "gifted" student (Del. Code Ann. tit. 14 § 3101; Del. ADC 14 §940-1)
District of Columbia	No
Florida	No
Georgia	No
Hawaii	No. However, the state provides for a two-tiered junior kindergarten and kindergarten program to support the range of developmental abilities of 4-and 5-year-old children entering school. (Haw. Rev. Stat. § 302A-411)
Idaho	No
Illinois	No
Indiana	No
Iowa	No
Kansas	No
Kentucky	No
Louisiana	No
Maine	No
Maryland	No
Massachusetts	No
Michigan	No

Minnesota	No
Mississippi	No
Missouri	No
Montana	Not specified in statute
Nebraska	No
Nevada	No
New Hampshire	No
New Jersey	No
New Mexico	No
New York	No
North Carolina	No
North Dakota	No
Ohio	If early entrance is granted according to district policy, the state will pay for 2.5 hours of services.
Oklahoma	No
Oregon	No
Pennsylvania	No
Puerto Rico	Not specified in statute
Rhode Island	No
South Carolina	No
South Dakota	No
Tennessee	No
Texas	No
Utah	No
Vermont	No
Virgin Islands	Not specified in statute

Virginia	No
Washington	No
West Virginia	No
Wisconsin	Yes, if the student was admitted under the early admission process prescribed in section 120.12(25). (Wis. Stat. Ann. § 121.004)
Wyoming	No

District Offering of Kindergarten

Alabama	Mandatory (Ala. Code § 16-6A-4)
Alaska	Permissive
Arizona	Mandatory (Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-703)
Arkansas	Mandatory (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-201)
California	Mandatory (Cal. Educ. Code § 48000)
Colorado	Mandatory (Colo. Rev. Stat. § 22-32-119)
Connecticut	Mandatory (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-15)
Delaware	Mandatory (Del. Code Ann. tit. 14 § 202)
District of Columbia	Mandatory (D.C. Code Ann. § 38-202)
Florida	Mandatory (Fla. Stat. ch. 228.041, 228.051)
Georgia	Mandatory (Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-151)
Hawaii	Mandatory (Haw. Rev. Stat. § 302A-411)
Idaho	Permissive (Idaho Code § 33-208)
Illinois	Mandatory (105 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/10-20.19a)
Indiana	Mandatory (Ind. Code § 20-2-9-7)
Iowa	Mandatory (Iowa Code § 280.3)
Kansas	Mandatory (Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-8212)
Kentucky	Mandatory (Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 158.100)
Louisiana	Mandatory (La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 17:151.3)
Maine	Mandatory (Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20A §§ 13012 20-A, 1001 and 1258)
Maryland	Mandatory (Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-101)
Massachusetts	Mandatory (Mass. Regs. Code tit. 603, § 8.01)
Michigan	Mandatory
Minnesota	Mandatory (Minn. Stat. § 124D.02)

Mississippi	Mandatory (Miss. Code Ann. § 37-21-6)
Missouri	Mandatory (Mo. Rev. Stat. § 160.051)
Montana	Mandatory (Mont. Code Ann. § 20-7-117)
Nebraska	Mandatory (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-728)
Nevada	Mandatory
New Hampshire	Mandatory
New Jersey	Permissive (N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:44-2)
New Mexico	Mandatory (N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-13-3)
New York	Permissive (N.Y. Educ. § 1712)
North Carolina	Mandatory (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-81)
North Dakota	Permissive (N.D. Cent. Code § 15.1-22-01)
Ohio	Mandatory (Oh. Rev. Code Ann. § 3311.29)
Oklahoma	Mandatory (Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70 § 18-108)
Oregon	Mandatory (Or. Rev. Stat. § 336.095)
Pennsylvania	Permissive (Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. T 24 P.S. § 5-503)
Puerto Rico	Mandatory (P.R. Laws Ann. § 143b)
Rhode Island	Mandatory (R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-2-2)
South Carolina	Mandatory (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-35-10)
South Dakota	Mandatory (S.D. Codified Laws § 13-26-2)
Tennessee	Mandatory (Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-201)
Texas	Mandatory (Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 29.151)
Utah	Mandatory (Utah Admin. Code § 53A-3-402.7)
Vermont	Mandatory (Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 16 § 821)
Virgin Islands	Mandatory (V.I. Code Ann. 17 § 82)
Virginia	Mandatory (Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-199)
Washington	Mandatory (Wash. Admin. Code § 28A.150.220)

West Virginia	Mandatory (W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-5-18)
Wisconsin	Mandatory (Wis. Stat. Ann. § 121.02)
Wyoming	Mandatory (Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21-3-110)

District Offering of Kindergarten: Notes

Alabama	—
Alaska	—
Arizona	<p>Districts may offer a 3-day/week kindergarten program so long as the instructional time is equal to the instructional time offered in a 5-day school week. (Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-341)</p> <p>"A district is exempt from establishing a kindergarten program if it files with the [state] department of education an exemption claim which states that the establishment of a kindergarten program will interfere with the work of, or maintenance of efficiency in, the grades and that a kindergarten program is not in the best interests of the district." (Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-703)</p>
Arkansas	The state board of education and school district boards are prohibited from charging fees or tuition in order to pay for the operation of public school kindergarten programs. (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-16-312)
California	—
Colorado	Colorado began requiring districts to offer kindergarten in 2005.
Connecticut	—
Delaware	—
District of Columbia	—
Florida	—
Georgia	—
Hawaii	—
Idaho	—
Illinois	—
Indiana	—
Iowa	—
Kansas	—
Kentucky	—
Louisiana	—
Maine	—

Maryland	—
Massachusetts	—
Michigan	—
Minnesota	—
Mississippi	Mississippi House Bill 859 (2003) requires the department of education to conduct a cost-benefit analysis of implementing mandatory kindergarten on a statewide basis.
Missouri	Mo. Rev. Stat. § 160.051 establishes a statewide system of free public schools for persons between the ages of 5 and 21 years.
Montana	Mont. Code Ann. § 20-1-301 states "a minimum of 90 days and 360 aggregate hours of pupil instruction must be conducted for a kindergarten program."
Nebraska	—
Nevada	—
New Hampshire	—
New Jersey	N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:44-2 states that "the board of education of any district may establish a kindergarten school or kindergarten department." However, the New Jersey Constitution (Art 8, §4,1) states "The Legislature shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of free public schools for the instruction of all the children in the State between the ages of 5 and 18 years."
New Mexico	—
New York	District offering of kindergarten is permissive, however, "a person over 5 and under 21 years of age who has not received a high school diploma is entitled to attend the public school maintained in the district in which such person resides without the payment of tuition." (N.Y. Educ. § 3020)
North Carolina	"Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, subject to the approval of the State Board of Education, any local board of education may elect not to establish and maintain a kindergarten program." (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-81)
North Dakota	Not required or prohibited by statute.
Ohio	—
Oklahoma	—
Oregon	—

Pennsylvania	—
Puerto Rico	—
Rhode Island	"School facilities shall include a sufficient number of kindergartens." (R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-2-2)
South Carolina	—
South Dakota	In 2004, the legislature passed SB 67, which requires all districts to provide some kindergarten for all students in the district whose parents wish to enroll them.
Tennessee	—
Texas	—
Utah	—
Vermont	—
Virgin Islands	—
Virginia	—
Washington	—
West Virginia	Districts may choose to offer developmental kindergarten, developmental 1st grade, early 1st grade, transitional 1st grade and/or developmental 2nd grade. Placement of children in these programs shall be based on the judgment of the teacher in consultation with the parent (W. Va. Code Ann. § 185-18c)
Wisconsin	"...[E]ach school board shall...operate a 5-year-old kindergarten program..." (Wis. Stat. Ann. § 121.02)
Wyoming	—

Student Attendance in Kindergarten

Alabama	Permissive
Alaska	Permissive
Arizona	Permissive
Arkansas	Mandatory (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-201)
California	Permissive
Colorado	Permissive
Connecticut	Mandatory (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-184)
Delaware	Mandatory (Del. Code Ann. tit. 14 § 2702)
District of Columbia	Mandatory (D.C. Code Ann. § 38-202)
Florida	Permissive
Georgia	Permissive
Hawaii	Permissive (Haw. Rev. Stat. § 302A-411)
Idaho	Permissive (Idaho Code § 33-208)
Illinois	Permissive
Indiana	Permissive
Iowa	Permissive
Kansas	Permissive (Kan. Stat. Ann. §§ 72-1111, -1107)
Kentucky	Permissive (Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 158.030)
Louisiana	Mandatory (La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 17:151.3)
Maine	Permissive
Maryland	Mandatory (Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-301)
Massachusetts	Permissive
Michigan	Permissive
Minnesota	Permissive (Minn. Stat. § 120A.02)

Mississippi	Permissive
Missouri	Permissive
Montana	Permissive (Mont. Code Ann. § 20-5-102)
Nebraska	Permissive
Nevada	Mandatory (Nev. Rev. Stat. § 392.040)
New Hampshire	Permissive (N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 193:1)
New Jersey	Permissive
New Mexico	Mandatory (N.M. Stat. Ann. §§ 22-1-2, 22-12-2)
New York	Permissive (N.Y. Educ. § 3205)
North Carolina	Permissive (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-378)
North Dakota	Permissive
Ohio	Mandatory (Oh. Rev. Code Ann. § 3321.29)
Oklahoma	Mandatory (Okla. Stat. Ann. tit.. 70 § 10-105)
Oregon	Permissive
Pennsylvania	Permissive
Puerto Rico	Mandatory (P.R. Laws Ann. § 143b)
Rhode Island	Mandatory (R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-2-28)
South Carolina	Mandatory (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-65-10)
South Dakota	Mandatory (S.D. Codified Laws § 13-27-1)
Tennessee	Mandatory (Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-201)
Texas	Permissive (Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 42.003)
Utah	Permissive
Vermont	Permissive
Virgin Islands	Mandatory (V.I. Code Ann.17 § 82)
Virginia	Mandatory (Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-199)
Washington	Permissive (Wash. Admin. Code § 28A.255.010)

West Virginia	Mandatory (W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-8-1a)
Wisconsin	Mandatory beginning with the 2011-12 school year. (Wis. Stat. Ann. § 118.15)
Wyoming	Permissive

Student Attendance in Kindergarten: Notes

Alabama	—
Alaska	—
Arizona	—
Arkansas	—
California	—
Colorado	—
Connecticut	—
Delaware	—
District of Columbia	—
Florida	—
Georgia	—
Hawaii	—
Idaho	—
Illinois	Once a student has been enrolled in kindergarten in a public school, that child falls under compulsory attendance laws. (105 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/26-2)
Indiana	—
Iowa	—
Kansas	—
Kentucky	—
Louisiana	—
Maine	—
Maryland	—
Massachusetts	Not specified in statute
Michigan	—
Minnesota	—

Mississippi	—
Missouri	—
Montana	—
Nebraska	—
Nevada	If a child is 6-years-old and has not completed kindergarten, he must complete kindergarten before being admitted to 1st grade. If a child is 7-years-old and has not completed kindergarten or 1st grade, he must undergo an assessment by the district to determine whether the child is prepared developmentally to be admitted to the 1st grade. If the district determines that the child is not so prepared, he must be admitted to kindergarten.
New Hampshire	—
New Jersey	—
New Mexico	The Public School Reform Act of 1986 made half-day kindergarten mandatory for all 5-year-olds. With consent of the parent a child may be excused from compulsory attendance by the superintendent of schools of the school district in which the child is a resident and the child is under 8 years of age. (N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-12-2)
New York	—
North Carolina	—
North Dakota	—
Ohio	—
Oklahoma	—
Oregon	—
Pennsylvania	—
Puerto Rico	—
Rhode Island	—
South Carolina	If a child is not 6 on or before 9/1 of the school year, his parent or guardian may elect for him not to attend kindergarten. "For this purpose, the parent or guardian shall sign a written document making the election with the governing body of the school district in which the parent or guardian resides." (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-65-10)
South Dakota	All children shall attend kindergarten prior to age seven. Any child who transfers from another state may proceed in a continuous educational program without interruption if the child has not previously attended kindergarten. (S.D. Codified

	Laws § 13-27-1)
Tennessee	"No child shall be eligible to enter 1st grade...without having attended an approved kindergarten program." (Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-201)
Texas	—
Utah	—
Vermont	—
Virgin Islands	—
Virginia	Compulsory school age is 5.
Washington	—
West Virginia	Under "extraordinary circumstances" a student may pass a readiness test for entrance into 1st grade in lieu of attending kindergarten. (W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-8-1a)
Wisconsin	—
Wyoming	—

Maximum Kindergarten Class Size

Alabama	Not specified in statute
Alaska	Not specified in statute
Arizona	Not specified in statute
Arkansas	Kindergarten class maximum may be no more than 22 with a one-half time instructional aide being employed. (Ark. ADC 005 19 007, 10.02.2)
California	Schools receiving funding through the Class Size Reduction Program must maintain an annual average class size of not more than 20 pupils for the school year. Any school district that maintains any kindergarten or any grades 1 - 3 may apply for an apportionment to implement a class size reduction program. (Cal. Educ. Code § 52122)
Colorado	Not specified in statute
Connecticut	Full-day kindergarten programs receiving money from the early reading success grant program must limit K-3 classes to 18 or fewer students. (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-265f)
Delaware	Not specified in statute
District of Columbia	Not specified in statute
Florida	<p>"It is the goal of the legislature that. . .beginning with kindergarten through grade 3 class sizes not exceed 20 students, with a ratio of one full-time equivalent teacher per 20 students; except that only in the case of critically low-performing schools. . .the goal in kindergarten through grade 3 shall be a ratio of one full-time equivalent teacher per 15 students." (Fla. Stat. ch. 236.687)</p> <p>A voter-approved constitutional amendment, passed in 2002, requires the state to pay for reducing class size to 18 students for pre-kindergarten through 3rd grade.</p>
Georgia	"The maximum class size for kindergarten and grades 1-3 shall not exceed 20% over the funding ratio except for art, music, or physical education classes." The funding ratio for kindergarten is 1 teacher for every 15 students; this caps the maximum class size for kindergarten at 18. (Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-182)
Hawaii	Not specified in statute
Idaho	<p>Not specified in statute</p> <p>The state board of education encourages school districts to lower class sizes and urge them to strive for the state class size goals. The maximum class size goal for kindergarten is 20. (Idaho Code § 08.02.02.110)</p>
Illinois	Not specified in statute

Indiana	Not specified in statute
Iowa	Not specified in statute
Kansas	Not specified in statute
Kentucky	24 (Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 157.360)
Louisiana	20 (La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 17:7, 17:174)
Maine	Under the "Early Childhood Educational Plans for Children Ages 4-9" legislation, local units may develop initiatives to reduce the student-teacher ratio in all classrooms within 1 or more grades, kindergarten through grade 3, to a recommended ratio of 1 to 15 and a maximum ratio of 1 to 18. (Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A § 4252)
Maryland	Not specified in statute
Massachusetts	25 (Mass. Regs. Code tit. 603 § 8.02)
Michigan	Not specified in statute
Minnesota	Each district must reserve revenue from the general education fund to reduce class sizes in grades K-3 to a level of 17 students to 1 teacher. (Minn. Stat. § 126C.12)
Mississippi	Not specified in statute
Missouri	Student enrollment in individual classes will be consistent with the following guidelines: 1. Minimum class size standard for K-2: 25 students 2. Desirable class size standard for K-2: 20 students (Missouri School Improvement Program: Integrated Standards and Indicators Manual, Accreditation Standards for Public School Districts in Missouri)
Montana	20 students, kindergarten-grade 2 28 students, grades 3-4 30 students, grades 5-8 (Mont. Code Ann. § 10.55.712)
Nebraska	Not specified in statute
Nevada	See ratios
New Hampshire	25 students or less in grades K-2. (N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § Ed 306.16)
New Jersey	Not specified in statute Class size shall not exceed 21 for kindergarten in Abbott districts. "Abbott

	districts" are school districts that receive parity aid based on the New Jersey Supreme Court order in <i>Abbott v. Burke</i> . (149 N.J. 145 [1997]) (N.J. Stat. Ann. § 6A:10A-1.2)
New Mexico	20 Teachers in classrooms with 15-20 students shall be provided a teacher's assistant. (N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-2-8.2)
New York	Not specified in statute
North Carolina	The average may not exceed the funded allotment ratio of teachers to students. At the end of the second school month and for the remainder of the school year, the size of an individual class shall not exceed the allotment ratio by more than three students. (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-81) The funded allotment ratio for K-1 of teachers to students is 18. (N.C. State Board of Education, Allotment Policy Manual FY 2003-2004, p. 42, <i>available at</i> http://www.ncpublicschools.org/fbs/allot) All classes for K-2 must be within a local education agency (LEA) maximum average of 21 students. (N.C. State Board of Education, Allotment Policy Manual FY 2003-2004, p.43, <i>available at</i> http://www.ncpublicschools.org/fbs/allot)
North Dakota	Accredited schools must maintain a maximum classroom enrollment of 25 students for K-3 for classrooms with 1 grade level per teacher. The maximum classroom enrollment for classrooms with 2 grade levels per teacher is 20 students for K-3. Maximum classroom enrollment for classrooms with 3 grade levels per teacher for K-8 is 15. The maximum classroom enrollment for classrooms with 4 grade levels per teacher K-8 is 10 students. (N.D. Cent. Code § 67-19-01-36) Accreditation is tied to foundation aid in this state.
Ohio	Not specified in statute
Oklahoma	20 (Grades K-3) If limiting class size to 20 would create a class with fewer than 10 students, a teacher's assistant may be hired in lieu of limiting class size (Okla. Stat. Ann. tit.70 § 18-113.1)
Oregon	Not specified in statute
Pennsylvania	Not specified in statute
Puerto Rico	Not specified in statute
Rhode Island	Districts may use educational improvement block grant dollars to fund class size reduction efforts with the ultimate goal of 15 students per teacher in grades pre-kindergarten through 3rd grade. (R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-5-31)

South Carolina	Maximum class size shall not exceed 30:1 for grades K-3. (S.C. Code Ann. § 43-205)
South Dakota	Not specified in statute
Tennessee	25 (Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-104) "The department of education and the state board are directed to implement the kindergarten through grade 3 at-risk class size program in accordance with policies developed by the department and approved by the state board." (TN ST §49-3-361)
Texas	22 for grades K-4. (Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 25.112)
Utah	Money is appropriated to reduce the average class size in grades K-8. Each district must use 50% of its allocation to reduce class size in any one or all of grades K-2. If a district's average class size in grades K-2 is below 18, it may petition the state board for a waiver to use the money for reducing class size in other grades. (Utah Admin. Code § 53A-17a-124.5)
Vermont	Not specified in statute
Virgin Islands	Not specified in statute
Virginia	The "divisionwide ratios of students in average daily membership to full-time equivalent teaching positions...[shall not be] greater than the following ratios: 24 to one in kindergarten with no class being larger than 29 students; if the average daily membership in any kindergarten class exceeds 24 pupils, a full-time teacher's aide shall be assigned to the class". (Va. Code Ann. §22.1-253.13:1[G][i]) Schools "may implement in kindergarten through 3rd grade, within certain schools, lower ratios of students...to full-time equivalent teaching positions...as follows: (i) in schools having high concentrations of at-risk students, 18 to 1; and (ii) in schools having moderate concentrations of at-risk students, 20 to 1". (Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-253.13:1[G][2][i])
Washington	Not specified in statute
West Virginia	20 for kindergarten, 25 for grades 1-2. (W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-5-18a)
Wisconsin	Class size is locally determined unless a school is receiving a reading achievement grant. Schools receiving these grants must maintain a class size of 15 in grades K-3. Achievement grants are awarded to districts in which a school in the previous school year had an enrollment that was at least 50% low-income. (Wis. Stat. Ann. § 118-43)
Wyoming	"Each school district...shall endeavor to maintain when practicable, in kindergarten through grade 3...an average class size of no more than 20 students per teacher." (Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21-9-101)

Required Kindergarten Teacher:Student Ratios

Alabama	<p>Not specified in statute</p> <p>A ratio of 1:18 is suggested by the Instructional Services Rules of the State Board of Education. (Ala. Admin. Code r. 290-5-1)</p>
Alaska	Not specified in statute
Arizona	Not specified in statute
Arkansas	20 students to 1 teacher in a kindergarten classroom (Ark. ADC 005 19 007, 10.02.2)
California	Not specified in statute
Colorado	Districts with over 6,000 students must annually report how they plan to use the guaranteed one-percent increase during the next budget year. The statement must include the average student-to-teacher ratio in grades K-3, the number of these classes in which the ratio exceeds 17 to 1 and the number of classes in which the ratio exceeds 23 to 1. If the school district has any classes in grades K-3 with a ratio exceeding 17 to 1 and chooses not to use the one-percent increase to decrease class size, the district must report why it believes that class size reduction in early grades should not be a priority. (Colo. Rev. Stat. §22-32-109.6)
Connecticut	Not specified in statute
Delaware	<p>1:22 for grades K-3</p> <p>A classroom instructional aide is counted as a 0.5 full-time equivalent teacher. (Del. Code Ann. tit. 14 § 1705A)</p>
District of Columbia	Not specified in statute
Florida	<p>"It is the goal of the legislature that...beginning with kindergarten through grade 3 class sizes not exceed 20 students, with a ratio of one full-time equivalent teacher per 20 students; except that only in the case of critically low-performing schools. . .the goal in kindergarten through grade 3 shall be a ratio of one full-time equivalent teacher per 15 students." (Fla. Stat. ch. 236.687)</p> <p>A voter-approved constitutional amendment, passed in 2002, requires the state to pay for reducing class size to 18 students for pre-kindergarten through 3rd grade.</p>
Georgia	1:15 (Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-161)
Hawaii	Not specified in statute
Idaho	Not specified in statute
Illinois	Not specified in statute

Indiana	The average pupil/teacher ratio for a single school shall not exceed 30/1. (Ind. Admin. Code tit. 511, r. 6.1-4-1)
Iowa	Not specified in statute 17 students per teacher is the state goal for K-3. The early intervention program provides funds to help school districts work toward the state class size goal. (Iowa Code § 281-12.5(256))
Kansas	Not specified in statute
Kentucky	2:24 "Kindergarten aides shall be provided for each 24 full-time equivalent students enrolled." (Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 157.360)
Louisiana	1:20 (La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 17:7, 17:151)
Maine	Under the "Early Childhood Educational Plans for Children Ages 4-9" legislation, local units may develop initiatives to reduce the student-teacher ratio in one or more of kindergarten through grade 3 to a recommended ratio of 1 to 15 and a maximum ration of 1 to 18. (Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A § 4252)
Maryland	Not specified in statute
Massachusetts	Not specified in statute
Michigan	Not specified in statute
Minnesota	Each district must reserve revenue from the general education fund to reduce class size in grades K-3 to a level of 17 students to 1 teacher. (Minn. Stat. § 126C.12)
Mississippi	The teacher-pupil ratio shall be 1:22 maximum. If an assistant teacher is assigned to the kindergarten classroom, the teacher-pupil ratio shall not exceed 1:27. (Miss. Code Ann. § 36 000 071 [2.1])
Missouri	Not specified in statute
Montana	Not specified in statute
Nebraska	Not specified in statute
Nevada	1:15 Districts must report the number of teachers assigned to teach in the same classroom with another teacher or in any other arrangement other than one teacher assigned to one classroom of pupils. (Nev. Rev. Stat. § 388.700)
New Hampshire	Not specified in statute

New Jersey	Not specified in statute
New Mexico	1:15 Teachers in classrooms with 15-20 students shall be provided a teacher's assistant. (N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-2-8.2)
New York	Not specified in statute
North Carolina	All classes must be within an individual class maximum of 24 students per kindergarten teacher. (N.C. State Board of Education, Allotment Policy Manual FY 2003-2004, p.43, <i>available at</i> http://www.ncpublicschools.org/fbs/allot)
North Dakota	Not specified in statute
Ohio	1:25. This is the same ratio as that for grades 1-12. (Oh. Rev. Code Ann. § 3301-35-05)
Oklahoma	If limiting class size to 20 would create a class with fewer than 10 students, a teacher's assistance may be hired in lieu of limiting class size (Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70 § 18-113.1)
Oregon	Not specified in statute
Pennsylvania	Not specified in statute
Puerto Rico	Not specified in statute
Rhode Island	Districts may use educational improvement block grant dollars to fund class size reduction efforts with the ultimate goal of 15 students per teacher in grades pre-kindergarten through 3rd grade. (R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-5-31)
South Carolina	The average pupil-teacher ration in any school shall not exceed 28 to 1 based on average daily membership. (S.C. Code Ann. § 43-205)
South Dakota	Not specified in statute
Tennessee	Not specified in statute
Texas	Not specified in statute
Utah	Not specified in statute
Vermont	Not specified in statute
Virgin Islands	Not specified in statute
Virginia	Divisionwide ratios for kindergarten shall not exceed 1:24. Pursuant to the appropriations act, schools having high concentrations of at-risk students may implement 1:18 ratios. Schools with moderate concentrations of at-risk students may implement 1:20 ratios. (Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-253.13:1[G])

Washington	The student-teacher ratios in grades K-3 must not exceed that of grades 4-12. Ratios shall not exceed 49 certificated instructional staff to 1,000 full-time students in grades K-3. (Wash. Admin. Code § 28A.150.250)
West Virginia	Each classroom shall not have more than 20 pupils for each kindergarten teacher. (W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-5-18a)
Wisconsin	Not specified in statute
Wyoming	Not specified in statute

Provision for Skipping Kindergarten

Alabama	"An underage child who transfers from the 1st grade of a school in another state may be admitted to school upon approval of the board of education in authority, and an underage child who has moved into this state having completed or graduated from a mandated kindergarten program in another state shall be entitled to admission to the public elementary schools regardless of age." (Ala. Code § 16-28-24)
Alaska	Not specified in statute
Arizona	If, in consultation with the parent/guardian, the child, the teacher and the school principal, it is determined to be in the best interest of the child, a child may be admitted to the 1st grade early. Such child must reach the required age of 6 by January 1 of the current school year. (Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-821)
Arkansas	Not specified in statute
California	<p>A kindergarten child who is judged by the administration of the school district to be ready for 1st grade work may be admitted to the 1st grade at the discretion of the school administration and with the consent of the child's parent or guardian if the child is at least 5 years old and meets the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The child has attended a public school kindergarten for a long enough time to enable school personnel to evaluate his ability; 2) The child is in the upper 5% of his age group in terms of general mental ability; and 3) The physical development and social maturity of the child are consistent with advanced mental ability. <p>(Cal. Educ. Code § 48011; Cal. Code Regs. 5 § 200)</p>
Colorado	A child who will be 5 by October 1 of the current school year and is identified as a "highly advanced gifted child" may enter 1st grade at age 5. (Colo. Rev. Stat. § 22-20-104.5)
Connecticut	Not specified in statute
Delaware	Not specified in statute
District of Columbia	Not specified in statute
Florida	Not specified in statute
Georgia	A child who was a legal resident "of one or more other states for a period of two years immediately prior to moving" to Georgia, and was legally enrolled in kindergarten, shall be eligible for enrollment in 1st grade if the child will attain the age of 6 by December 31 and "is otherwise qualified."
Hawaii	Not specified in statute

Idaho	"Any child of the age of 5 years who has completed a private or public out-of-state kindergarten. . .but has not reached the school age requirement in Idaho shall be allowed to enter the 1st grade." (Idaho Code § 33-201)
Illinois	Not specified in statute
Indiana	Not specified in statute
Iowa	"A child under 6 years of age who has been admitted to school work for the year immediately preceding the 1st grade under conditions approved by the department of education or who has demonstrated the possession of sufficient ability to profit by 1st grade work on the basis of tests or other means of evaluation recommended or approved by the department of education, may be admitted to 1st grade at any time before December 31." (Iowa Code § 282.3)
Kansas	"Any child who has completed a kindergarten course entered and attended in this state or who was a resident in another state and who, while residing in such other state, had entered and was in attendance in 1st grade in such state or who had completed in such state a kindergarten course maintained by a public school district or by an accredited private, denominational or parochial school shall be eligible to attend 1st grade in this state, regardless of age." (Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-1107(b))
Kentucky	"A school district may advance a student through the primary program when it is determined that it is in the best educational interest of the student. A student who is at least five (5) years of age, but less than six (6) years of age, and is advanced in the primary program may be classified as other than a kindergarten student for purposes of funding under KRS 157.310 to 157.440 if the student is determined to have acquired the academic and social skills taught in kindergarten as determined by local board policy in accordance with the process established by Kentucky Board of Education administrative regulation." (Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 158.031)
Louisiana	Children must attend kindergarten before attending 1st grade unless they have satisfactorily passed an academic screening administered by the city or parish school system. Each parish or school system may establish academic readiness levels for its 1st grade based on criteria established by the system. (La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 17:151.3)
Maine	Not specified in statute
Maryland	"The local board of education may adopt a regulation permitting a 5-year-old child, upon request of the parent or guardian, to be admitted to the 1st grade if the local superintendent of schools or the superintendent's designee determines that the child has demonstrated capabilities warranting early admission." (Md. Regs. Code tit. 13A., § 08.01.02)
Massachusetts	Not specified in statute
Michigan	If a district does not offer kindergarten, "a child who is at least 5 years of age on the first day of enrollment of the school year, shall have a right to attend school in the district." (Mich. Comp. Laws § 380.1147)

Minnesota	Any school board may establish a policy for admission of selected pupils at an earlier age. (Minn. Stat. § 120A.20)
Mississippi	Not specified in statute
Missouri	Not specified in statute
Montana	Not specified in statute
Nebraska	Not specified in statute
Nevada	"If a child is not 6 years of age on or before September 30 of a school year, the child must not be admitted to the 1st grade until the beginning of the school year following his 6th birthday." (Nev. Rev. Stat. § 392.040)
New Hampshire	Not specified in statute
New Jersey	Not specified in statute
New Mexico	Not specified in statute
New York	Not specified in statute
North Carolina	If a principal finds, subsequent to initial kindergarten entry, that a child, by reason of maturity, can be more appropriately served in the 1st grade, the child may be placed in 1st grade, regardless of age (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-364(c))
North Dakota	A child must be 6 by September 1 before he enters 1st grade unless he: a) can demonstrate special talents or abilities; or b) has completed an approved kindergarten program. (N.D. Cent. Code § 15.1-06-01)
Ohio	Not specified in statute
Oklahoma	"No child shall be enrolled in kindergarten unless he or she will have reached the age of five (5) years or before September 1 of the school year." (Okla. Stat. Ann. tit..70 § 1 -114)
Oregon	A district school board may admit a child "whose needs for cognitive, social and physical development would best be met in the school program, as defined by policies of the district school board, to school even though the child has not attained the minimum age requirement." (Or. Rev. Stat. § 339.115)
Pennsylvania	Each district may choose to provide early entrance to students "in accordance with standards prescribed by the state board of education" (Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. 24 P.S. § 13-1304)
Puerto Rico	Not specified in statute
Rhode Island	"Every child shall be eligible to attend 1st grade only upon completion of a state recognized or accredited kindergarten program." (R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-2-28)

South Carolina	Districts may choose to admit children to kindergarten or 1st grade before the state entrance age, however the district is not entitled to receive any state aid for students admitted early. (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-63-20)
South Dakota	Any child who transfers from another state may proceed in a continuous educational program without interruption. (S.D. Codified Laws § 13-28-2)
Tennessee	"No child shall be eligible to enter 1st grade...without having attended an approved kindergarten program." (Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-201)
Texas	A child who has completed kindergarten in another state may attend 1st grade before he has turned 6. (Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 42.003)
Utah	Not specified in statute
Vermont	Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in this state.
Virgin Islands	Not specified in statute
Virginia	None
Washington	Local education agencies may set the entrance age for 1st grade and may make exceptions for individual students based on ability, need or both. (Wash Admin. Code § 28A.225.160)
West Virginia	"A county board may provide for advanced entrance or placement under policies adopted by said board for any child who has demonstrated sufficient mental and physical competency for such entrance or placement." (W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-8-1a)
Wisconsin	Each district must prescribe "procedures, conditions and standards for early admission to...1st grade" (Wis. Stat. Ann. § 120.12)
Wyoming	Not specified in statute

Conditions for Kindergarten Exemption

Alabama	Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in this state.
Alaska	Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in this state.
Arizona	Kindergarten attendance is not required in this state.
Arkansas	A child who will be 6 on or before October 1 who has not completed a state-accredited kindergarten program "shall be evaluated by the district and may be placed in the 1st grade if the results of the evaluation justify placement in the 1st grade and the child's parent agrees with placement in the 1st grade. Otherwise, the child shall be placed in kindergarten." (Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-201)
California	Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in this state.
Colorado	Kindergarten attendance is not required in this state.
Connecticut	"The parent or person having control of a child 5 years of age shall have the option of not sending the child to school until the child is 6 years of age...by personally appearing at the school district office and signing an option form." (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-184)
Delaware	Parents may request an evaluation of a child's readiness for kindergarten attendance "and may request a delay of one year in that attendance." However, admission to 1st grade will depend on an evaluation of the child's readiness for attendance. (Del. Code Ann. tit. 14 § 2702)
District of Columbia	Not specified in statute
Florida	Not specified in statute
Georgia	Kindergarten attendance is not required in this state.
Hawaii	Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in this state.
Idaho	Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in this state.
Illinois	Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in this state.
Indiana	Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in this state.
Iowa	Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in this state.
Kansas	Kindergarten is not mandatory in this state.
Kentucky	Kindergarten attendance is not required in this state.
Louisiana	Children must attend kindergarten before attending 1st grade unless they have satisfactorily passed an academic screening administered by the city or parish

	school system. (La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 17:151.3)
Maine	Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in this state.
Maryland	<p>A child who is 5 years old may be exempted from mandatory school attendance for one year if the child's parent or guardian files a written request with the local school system asking that the child's attendance be delayed due to the child's level of maturity. A child may be exempted from attending kindergarten if a parent or guardian of the child files a written request with the local school system and verifies that the child is enrolled full-time in a licensed child care center; full-time in a registered family child care home; or part-time in a Head Start five-year-old program. (Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-301(a)(2), (f))</p> <p>A child may be exempted from attending a public or nonpublic kindergarten program if "the child is enrolled in an alternative program as specified in [state regulations] or is receiving home instruction as provided in [state regulations]." (Md. Regs. Code tit. 13A., § 08.01.01)</p>
Massachusetts	Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in this state.
Michigan	Kindergarten attendance is not required in this state.
Minnesota	Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in this state.
Mississippi	Kindergarten attendance is not required in this state.
Missouri	Kindergarten attendance is not required in this state.
Montana	Kindergarten attendance is not required in this state.
Nebraska	Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in this state.
Nevada	The parents of a 6-year-old child may elect for the child not to attend kindergarten or 1st grade during that year if they file a waiver with the board of trustees of the appropriate school district. If parents choose this option, the child must pass a developmental assessment before being admitted to 1st grade the following year. (Nev. Rev. Stat. § 392.040)
New Hampshire	Not specified in statute
New Jersey	Kindergarten attendance is not required in this state.
New Mexico	With consent of the parent, a child may be excused from compulsory attendance by the superintendent of schools of the school district in which the child is a resident and the child is under 8 years of age. (N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-12-2)
New York	Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in this state
North Carolina	Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in this state.
North Dakota	Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in this state.
Ohio	Students must complete kindergarten in order to attend 1st grade. This

	requirement may be waived upon request of a parent in the case of a child who is at least 6-years-old by September 30 and who demonstrates the social, emotional and cognitive skills necessary for 1st grade. (Oh. Rev. Code Ann. § 3321.012 [C] and[D])
Oklahoma	A child who is 5 years old may be excused from kindergarten attendance for one year if a parent or guardian notifies the superintendent of the district by certified mail prior to enrollment (Okla Stat. Ann. tit.. 70 § 10-105)
Oregon	Kindergarten attendance is not required in this state.
Pennsylvania	Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in this state.
Puerto Rico	Not specified in statute
Rhode Island	Not specified in statute
South Carolina	A parent may elect for their child not to attend kindergarten if the parent "signs a written document making the election with the governing body of the school district." (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-65-10)
South Dakota	Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in this state.
Tennessee	"No child shall be eligible to enter 1st grade...without having attended an approved kindergarten program." (Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-201)
Texas	Kindergarten attendance is not required in this state. (Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 42.003)
Utah	Kindergarten attendance is not required in this state.
Vermont	Not specified in statute
Virgin Islands	Not specified in statute
Virginia	Any child who will not have reached his 6th birthday on or before September 30 whose parent notifies the appropriate school board that he does not wish the child to attend school until the following year because the child "in the opinion of the parent or guardian, is not mentally, physically or emotionally prepared to attend school, may delay the child's attendance for one year". (Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-254)
Washington	Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in this state.
West Virginia	"Prior to entrance into the 1st grade...each child must have either (1) successfully completed such publicly or privately supported, state-approved kindergarten program or Montessori kindergarten program, or (2) successfully completed an entrance test of basic readiness skills approved by the county in which the school is located: provided, that such test be administered in lieu of kindergarten attendance only under extraordinary circumstances to be determined by the board." (W.Va. Code Ann. § 18-8-1a)

Wisconsin	Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in this state.
Wyoming	Kindergarten attendance is not mandatory in this state.

Admission Requirements Specific to Full-Day Kindergarten

Alabama	Not specified in statute
Alaska	Not specified in statute
Arizona	Not specified in statute
Arkansas	All enrolling kindergarten students shall be evaluated with the Early, Periodic, Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Equivalent within 2 years prior to or within 90 days after the student's initial enrollment in kindergarten. (Ark. ADC 005 15 018, 5.01 and 5.02)
California	Not specified in statute
Colorado	—
Connecticut	Not specified in statute
Delaware	Not specified in statute
District of Columbia	Not specified in statute
Florida	Not specified in statute
Georgia	Full-day kindergarten is universally available in Georgia. (Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-151)
Hawaii	Not specified in statute
Idaho	Not specified in statute
Illinois	Not specified in statute
Indiana	Not specified in statute
Iowa	Not specified in statute
Kansas	Not specified in statute
Kentucky	Not specified in statute
Louisiana	Not applicable
Maine	Not specified in statute
Maryland	Not specified in statute
Massachusetts	Not specified in statute

Michigan	Not specified in statute
Minnesota	Not specified in statute
Mississippi	Not specified in statute
Missouri	Not specified in statute
Montana	Not specified in statute
Nebraska	Not specified in statute
Nevada	Not specified in statute
New Hampshire	Not specified in statute
New Jersey	Not specified in statute
New Mexico	"The department of education shall require schools with full-day kindergarten programs to conduct age-appropriate assessments to determine the placement of students at instructional level and the effectiveness of child-centered, developmentally appropriate kindergarten". (N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-2-19)
New York	Not specified in statute
North Carolina	Not specified in statute
North Dakota	Not specified in statute
Ohio	Not specified in statute
Oklahoma	Not specified in statute
Oregon	Not specified in statute
Pennsylvania	Not specified in statute
Puerto Rico	—
Rhode Island	Not specified in statute.
South Carolina	Not specified in statute
South Dakota	Not specified in statute
Tennessee	Not specified in statute
Texas	Not specified in statute
Utah	Not specified in statute

Vermont	Not specified in statute
Virgin Islands	Not specified in statute
Virginia	Not specified in statute
Washington	Not specified in statute
West Virginia	Full day kindergarten is universally available in West Virginia.
Wisconsin	Not specified in statute
Wyoming	Not specified in statute

Student Attendance in Full-Day Kindergarten

Alabama	Permissive
Alaska	Permissive
Arizona	Permissive
Arkansas	Permissive
California	—
Colorado	Permissive
Connecticut	Permissive
Delaware	Permissive
District of Columbia	Permissive
Florida	Permissive
Georgia	Permissive
Hawaii	Permissive
Idaho	Permissive
Illinois	Permissive
Indiana	Permissive
Iowa	Permissive
Kansas	Permissive
Kentucky	Permissive
Louisiana	Mandatory (La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 17:151.3)
Maine	Permissive
Maryland	Permissive
Massachusetts	Permissive
Michigan	Permissive
Minnesota	Permissive

Mississippi	Permissive
Missouri	Permissive
Montana	Permissive
Nebraska	Permissive
Nevada	Permissive
New Hampshire	Permissive
New Jersey	Permissive
New Mexico	Permissive (N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-2-19)
New York	Permissive
North Carolina	Permissive (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-378)
North Dakota	Permissive
Ohio	Permissive
Oklahoma	Permissive (Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70 § 18-108)
Oregon	Permissive
Pennsylvania	Permissive
Puerto Rico	Permissive
Rhode Island	Permissive
South Carolina	Permissive
South Dakota	Permissive
Tennessee	Permissive
Texas	Permissive
Utah	Permissive
Vermont	Permissive
Virgin Islands	Permissive
Virginia	Permissive
Washington	Permissive

West Virginia	Mandatory (W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-5-18)
Wisconsin	Permissive
Wyoming	Permissive

District Offering of Full-Day Kindergarten

Alabama	Mandatory (Ala. Admin. Code r. 290-5-.01)
Alaska	Permissive
Arizona	Permissive
Arkansas	Mandatory (Ark. ADC 005 19 007)
California	Allowed for Early Primary Programs only (Cal. Educ. Code § 8973)
Colorado	Permissive (Colo. Rev. Stat. § 22-32-119)
Connecticut	Permissive
Delaware	Mandatory (Del. Code Ann. tit.14 § 1049(1))
District of Columbia	Permissive (D.C. Code Ann. § 38-2807)
Florida	Permissive
Georgia	Mandatory (Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-151)
Hawaii	Permissive
Idaho	Permissive
Illinois	Permissive (105 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/10-20.19a)
Indiana	Permissive (Ind. Code § 20-2-9-7)
Iowa	Permissive (Iowa Code § 280.3)
Kansas	Permissive (Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-1106)
Kentucky	Permissive
Louisiana	Mandatory (La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 17:151.3)
Maine	Permissive
Maryland	Mandatory (Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-301)
Massachusetts	Permissive
Michigan	Permissive
Minnesota	Permissive

Mississippi	Mandatory
Missouri	Permissive
Montana	Permissive
Nebraska	Permissive
Nevada	Permissive
New Hampshire	Permissive
New Jersey	Permissive The board must offer a full-day kindergarten program to all five-year-old children in Abbott districts. (NJ Code §6A:24-3.2) "Abbott districts" are school districts that receive parity aid based on the New Jersey Supreme Court order in Abbott v. Burke (149 N.J. 145 [1997])
New Mexico	Permissive (N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-2-19)
New York	Permissive
North Carolina	Mandatory
North Dakota	Permissive
Ohio	Mandatory (Oh. Rev. Code Ann. § 3321.05)
Oklahoma	Permissive Beginning with the 2011-12 school year, it will be mandatory that districts offer full-day kindergarten. (Okla. Stat. Ann. tit.. 70 § 18-108)
Oregon	Permissive
Pennsylvania	Permissive
Puerto Rico	Permissive
Rhode Island	Permissive (R.I. Gen. Laws § 16-7.1-11.1)
South Carolina	Mandatory (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-35-10)
South Dakota	Permissive
Tennessee	Permissive
Texas	Permissive (Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 29.152)
Utah	Permissive

Vermont	Permissive
Virgin Islands	Permissive
Virginia	Permissive
Washington	Permissive (Wash. Admin. Code § 28A.255.160)
West Virginia	Mandatory (W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-5-18)
Wisconsin	Permissive
Wyoming	Permissive

District Offering of Full-Day Kindergarten: Notes

Alabama	—
Alaska	—
Arizona	<p>"State law does not require fee waivers for extended-day kindergarten programs that are offered as community school programs, but if such programs are offered as an extracurricular activity under A.R.S. section, school districts must give school principals discretion to waive all or part of the fee for the program if it would create an economic hardship for a pupil." (199 Op. Att'y Gen. 021)</p> <p>"A school district that establishes a full-day kindergarten program shall allow each parent of a kindergarten pupil to choose either half-day kindergarten instruction or full-day kindergarten instruction." (Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 15-703)</p>
Arkansas	—
California	<p>As required by Cal. Educ. Code § 46111, no kindergarten student should be kept in school for more than 4 hours a day, exclusive of recesses, except for pupils in Early Primary Programs. Early Primary Programs are defined as "an integrated, experiential, and developmentally appropriate educational program for children in preschool, kindergarten, and grades 1 to 3, inclusive, that incorporates various instructional strategies and authentic assessment practices, including educationally appropriate curricula, heterogeneous groupings, active learning activities, oral language development, small-group instruction, peer interaction, use of concrete manipulative materials in the classroom, planned articulation among preschool, kindergarten and primary grades, and parent involvement and education."</p> <p>Full-day kindergarten is prohibited in one section of the education code and allowed in another. Cal. Educ. Code § 46111 prohibits kindergarten from exceeding 4 hours (excluding recesses) unless children are participating in an Early Primary Program as allowed under Cal. Educ. Code § 8970-8974. Cal. Educ. Code § 8973 specifically states that kindergarten may exceed 4 hours if the program is not longer than the other primary grades and if there are opportunities for both active and quiet activities.</p>
Colorado	—
Connecticut	—
Delaware	<p>"Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, a local school district may request a waiver of the minimum number of hours for kindergarten, provided the local school district demonstrates evidence of the inability to implement full-day kindergarten to the Secretary of Education, Controller General, and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget. Evidence may include, but not be limited to, 2 consecutive failed referenda requesting funds for the implementation of full day kindergarten, lack of capacity, unavoidable construction delays. The waiver request shall be submitted to the Secretary of Education no later than February 15 of the school year prior to the next school calendar year and be valid for 1 school year, after which the district may re-apply</p>

	<p>for an additional waiver." (Del. Code Ann. tit. 14 § 1049)</p> <p>The laws regarding full-day kindergarten become effect in each school district upon a confirming vote by the local school district board and upon a specific appropriation by the General Assembly to fund the costs of full-day kindergarten. (Del. Code Ann. tit. 14 § 2702)</p>
District of Columbia	"The District of Columbia Public Schools should fully fund pre-kindergarten, full-day kindergarten, school counselors and librarians." (D.C. Code Ann. § 38-2807)
Florida	—
Georgia	—
Hawaii	Not prohibited or required by statute
Idaho	Not required or prohibited by statute
Illinois	—
Indiana	—
Iowa	—
Kansas	School districts are permitted to charge parents a fee to enroll their children in full day kindergarten. (Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-8255)
Kentucky	—
Louisiana	—
Maine	—
Maryland	Maryland passed legislation in 2002 requiring all districts to offer full-day kindergarten by the 2007-08 school year.
Massachusetts	Not explicitly required or prohibited by statute.
Michigan	—
Minnesota	Not specified in statute
Mississippi	The length of the school day shall be the same as that of the other grades of the elementary school. (Mississippi Kindergarten Guidelines)
Missouri	—
Montana	A kindergarten program that is designed as a full-time program must allow a child to enroll half-time. (Mont. Code Ann. § 20-7-117)
Nebraska	In June 2005, the NE State Board of Education endorsed a plan that would require every public school to offer full-day kindergarten by 2008. Such a change

	will require a change in state law.
Nevada	Not expressly required or prohibited by statute.
New Hampshire	Not expressly required or prohibited by statute.
New Jersey	Not expressly required or prohibited by statute.
New Mexico	Funding for full-day kindergarten programs is being phased in over a five-year period (from 2000-01 to the 2004-05 school year). Though each year one-fifth of the districts become eligible to receive funding for full-day kindergarten classes, "establishment of full-day kindergarten programs shall be voluntary on the part of school districts and student participation shall be voluntary on the part of parents." (N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-2-19)
New York	Not required or prohibited by state statute
North Carolina	Full-day kindergarten is universally available in North Carolina and has been since 1976. (N.C. Department of Education, <i>available at</i> http://www.ncpublicschools.org/students/edhistory.html)
North Dakota	Not required by statute
Ohio	A school district may operate full- or extended-day kindergarten, but no district shall require any student to attend kindergarten for more than the number of clock hours required each day for traditional kindergarten. Districts that operate full- or extended-day kindergarten must accommodate students whose parents or guardians elect to enroll them for the minimum number of hours. (Oh. Rev. Code Ann. § 3321.05)
Oklahoma	The duty to offer full-day kindergarten "may be satisfied by intra-district transfer to a school offering full-day kindergarten, by transferring kindergarten children to other school districts which will accept them and can provide kindergarten for such children, or by contracting for classroom space with a licensed public or licensed private child care provider based upon selection criteria established by the district." (Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70 § 18-108)
Oregon	Not required or prohibited by statute.
Pennsylvania	Not required or prohibited by statute.
Puerto Rico	—
Rhode Island	—
South Carolina	The state board of trustees must provide for school-age child care programs when school is in session for students who are enrolled in a half-day kindergarten (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-19-90)
South Dakota	Not specifically required or prohibited by statute.
Tennessee	Not required or prohibited by statute.

Texas	—
Utah	Not expressly required or prohibited in statute.
Vermont	Not expressly required or prohibited by statute.
Virgin Islands	—
Virginia	Not expressly prohibited or required in state statute.
Washington	—
West Virginia	County school boards may establish programs taking kindergarten to the homes of children using "educational television, paraprofessional personnel in addition to and to supplement regularly certified teachers, mobile or permanent classrooms and other means developed to best carry kindergarten to the child in its home and enlist the aid and involvement of its parent or parents in presenting the program to the child." (W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-5-18)
Wisconsin	Not required or prohibited in statute.
Wyoming	Not required or prohibited in statute.

If district offering of full-day kindergarten is mandatory, must districts also offer a half-day kindergarten option?

Alabama	Not specified in statute
Alaska	Not applicable
Arizona	Not applicable
Arkansas	Not specified in statute
California	Not applicable
Colorado	Not specified in statute
Connecticut	Not applicable
Delaware	<p>Yes, parents may opt to only send their child for a half day. (Del. Code Ann. tit. 14 § 2702)</p> <p>Also, "n]otwithstanding any provision or section of this chapter to the contrary, each school board shall provide a stand-alone, self-contained half-day kindergarten option within the district, provided there are 18 or more children signed up for a half-day kindergarten option." (Del. Code Ann. tit. 14 § 1049)</p> <p>The laws regarding full-day kindergarten become effect in each school district upon a confirming vote by the local school district board and upon a specific appropriation by the General Assembly to fund the costs of full-day kindergarten. (Del. Code Ann. tit. 14 § 2702)</p>
District of Columbia	Not specified in statute
Florida	Not applicable
Georgia	Not specified in statute
Hawaii	Not applicable
Idaho	Not applicable
Illinois	Yes (105 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/10-22.18)
Indiana	Not applicable
Iowa	Not applicable
Kansas	Not applicable
Kentucky	Not applicable

Louisiana	No
Maine	Not applicable
Maryland	Not specified in statute
Massachusetts	Not applicable
Michigan	Not applicable
Minnesota	Not applicable
Mississippi	Not specified in statute
Missouri	Not applicable
Montana	Not applicable
Nebraska	Not applicable
Nevada	Not applicable
New Hampshire	Not applicable
New Jersey	Not specified in statute
New Mexico	Not specified in statute
New York	Not applicable
North Carolina	No
North Dakota	Not applicable
Ohio	Districts are not required to offer full-day kindergarten. If districts do offer full-day kindergarten, they must provide a half-day option at parent request. (Oh. Rev. Code An. § 3321.05)
Oklahoma	Not specified in statute
Oregon	Not applicable
Pennsylvania	Not applicable
Puerto Rico	Not applicable
Rhode Island	Not applicable
South Carolina	Yes (S.C. Code Ann. § 59-35-10)
South Dakota	Not applicable

Tennessee	Not applicable
Texas	Not applicable
Utah	Not applicable
Vermont	Not applicable
Virgin Islands	Not applicable
Virginia	Not applicable
Washington	Not applicable
West Virginia	No
Wisconsin	Not applicable
Wyoming	Not applicable

Full-Day Kindergarten Attendance: Notes

Alabama	—
Alaska	—
Arizona	—
Arkansas	—
California	—
Colorado	—
Connecticut	—
Delaware	Parents may opt to only send their child for a half day. (Del. Code Ann. tit. 14 § 2702)
District of Columbia	—
Florida	—
Georgia	—
Hawaii	—
Idaho	—
Illinois	—
Indiana	—
Iowa	—
Kansas	—
Kentucky	—
Louisiana	—
Maine	—
Maryland	—
Massachusetts	—
Michigan	—
Minnesota	—

Mississippi	—
Missouri	—
Montana	—
Nebraska	—
Nevada	—
New Hampshire	—
New Jersey	—
New Mexico	—
New York	—
North Carolina	—
North Dakota	—
Ohio	—
Oklahoma	—
Oregon	—
Pennsylvania	—
Puerto Rico	—
Rhode Island	—
South Carolina	—
South Dakota	—
Tennessee	—
Texas	—
Utah	—
Vermont	—
Virgin Islands	—
Virginia	—
Washington	—

West Virginia	"The programs for children who shall have attained age of 5 shall be full-day everyday programs." (W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-5-18)
Wisconsin	—
Wyoming	—

Kindergarten Teacher Certification Requirements

Alabama	Not specified in statute
Alaska	Not specified in statute
Arizona	Not specified in statute
Arkansas	Not specified in statute
California	Not specified in statute
Colorado	Not specified in statute
Connecticut	Not specified in statute
Delaware	Not specified in statute
District of Columbia	Not specified in statute
Florida	Not specified in statute
Georgia	Not specified in statute
Hawaii	Not specified in statute
Idaho	There is "a single preservice assessment measure for all kindergarten through grade 8 teacher preparation programs." (Idaho Code § 33-1207A)
Illinois	Kindergarten teachers must possess an early childhood certificate or an elementary certificate. (105 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/21-2)
Indiana	Not specified in statute
Iowa	"A kindergarten teacher shall be licensed to teach in kindergarten." (Iowa Code § 256.11(2))
Kansas	Not specified in statute
Kentucky	Not specified in statute
Louisiana	Not specified in statute
Maine	"A provisional teacher certificate is the entry level certificate. . .and may only be issued to an applicant who. . .for elementary school, has met academic and preprofessional requirements established by the state board of teaching at the elementary school level and has graduated from an accredited, degree-granting educational institution upon completion of: (1) a bachelor s degree from a 4-year accredited college or university; (2) a 4-year program in liberal arts and sciences; or (3) an approved 4-year teacher preparation program and has majored in the subject area to be taught or an interdisciplinary program in liberal arts." (Me.

	Rev. Stat. tit. 20A § 13012)
Maryland	To receive certification to teach pre-kindergarten through grade 3, an applicant must complete a bachelor's degree and 27 hours of professional education work. (Md. Regs. Code tit. 13A., § 12.02.03)
Massachusetts	"Kindergarten classes shall be taught by qualified and certified teachers." (Mass. Regs. Code tit. 603, § 8.01) Teachers must possess a bachelor's degree. (Mass. Regs. Code tit. 603, § 7.04)
Michigan	Not specified in statute
Minnesota	Not specified in statute
Mississippi	"Licensure to teach in Mississippi pre-kindergarten through kindergarten classrooms shall require a completion of a teacher education program or a bachelor of science degree with child development emphasis". (Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2)
Missouri	Not specified in statute
Montana	Teachers must be certified (Mont. Code Ann. § 10.55.707)
Nebraska	Not specified in statute
Nevada	Not specified in statute
New Hampshire	Not specified in statute
New Jersey	"Every teacher in a nursery school or department and every teacher in a kindergarten school or department shall hold an appropriate certificate." (N.J. Stat. Ann. § 18A:44-3)
New Mexico	Not specified in statute
New York	Not specified in statute
North Carolina	"In order to receive an initial regular license, an applicant must obtain the bachelor's or other required degree." (N.C. Admin. Code tit. 16, r. 06C.0303)
North Dakota	"In order to teacher kindergarten, an individual must be licensed to teach by the education standards and practices board or approved to teach by the education standards and practices board and meet one of the following criteria: 1. Have a major in elementary education and a kindergarten endorsement. 2. Have a major equivalency in elementary education and a kindergarten endorsement. 3. Have a major in elementary education an an early childhood education endorsement. 4. Have a major equivalency in elementary education and an early childhood education endorsement.

	<p>5. Have a major in early childhood education; or</p> <p>6. Have a major equivalency in early childhood education." (N.D. Cent. Code § 15.1-18-02)</p>
Ohio	<p>To receive a kindergarten-primary certification an individual must complete a baccalaureate degree program that includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thirty semester hours of general education (humanities, mathematics, natural sciences and social sciences); 2. Twenty semester hours in an area of concentration (selected from the humanities, mathematics, natural sciences or social sciences); 3. Thirty semester hours of course work and clinical and field-based experiences designed for teaching grades K-3; 4. Thirty semester hours in curriculum content (health, language arts, mathematics, music, physical education, reading, science, social studies and visual art). (Oh. Rev. Code Ann. § 3301-23-02) Teachers applying for "an initial provisional educator licenses in grades K-6...are required to have successfully completed at least six semester hours of coursework in the teaching of reading that includes at least one separate course of at least three semester hours in the teaching of phonics in the context of reading, writing and spelling." (Oh. Rev. Code Ann. § 3319.24)
Oklahoma	<p>As of January 1, 1993, all kindergarten teachers must be certified in early childhood education (Okla. Stat. Ann. tit..70 § 10-105).</p> <p>"All professional personnel, with the exception of some instructors in Career Technology programs, shall hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution, provide evidence of adequate professional education preparation, meet the certification standards of Oklahoma, and be assigned to teach in areas for which they are certified." (Okla. ADC 210:35-3-86)</p>
Oregon	Not specified in statute
Pennsylvania	"The superintendent of public instruction shall provide for special examinations, and for temporary or permanent certificates, for teachers of kindergartens, drawing, vocal music, manual training, physical training and other special branches." (Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. 24 P.S. § 12-1207)
Puerto Rico	Teachers are required to obtain certification to work within the public education system of Puerto Rico and private schools accredited by the Department of Education of Puerto Rico, in accordance with regulations adopted by the secretary of education and subject to approval by the governor, prescribing the academic, vocational and technical qualifications and the requirements of professional experience and of majors related to their profession. (P.R. Laws Ann. § 261)
Rhode Island	Not specified in statute
South Carolina	Not specified in statute
South Dakota	Not specified in statute

Tennessee	"Teachers of kindergarten shall hold a valid Tennessee license in accordance with the rules and regulations of the state board of education." (Tenn. Code Ann. § 46-6-201)
Texas	Not specified in statute
Utah	Not specified in statute
Vermont	Not specified in statute
Virgin Islands	The board of education prescribes rules and regulations and establishes criteria for teacher certification. All teachers must be certified to teach in the Virgin Islands. (V.I. Code Ann. §121)
Virginia	"No teacher shall be regularly employed by a school board or paid from public funds unless such teacher holds a license or provisional license issued by the Board of Education or a three-year local eligibility license issued by the local school board pursuant to § 22.1-299.3. In accordance with regulations prescribed by the Board, a person not meeting the requirements for a license or provisional license may be employed and paid from public funds by a school board temporarily as a substitute teacher to meet an emergency". (Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-299)
Washington	Not specified in statute
West Virginia	"Persons employed as kindergarten teachers...shall be required to hold a certificate valid for teaching at the assigned level." (W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-5-18)
Wisconsin	"The department of education may not issue or renew a license that authorizes the holder to teach reading or language arts to pupils in any pre-kindergarten class or in any of the grades from K-6 unless the applicant has successfully completed instruction preparing the applicant to teach reading and language arts using appropriate instructional methods, including phonics." (Wis. Stat. Ann. § 118.43)
Wyoming	Not specified in statute

Early Childhood Training or Certification Requirements for Kindergarten Teachers

Alabama	Not specified in statute
Alaska	Not specified in statute
Arizona	Not specified in statute
Arkansas	Not specified in statute
California	Teachers participating in the Kindergarten Readiness Program (pilot program that raises the kindergarten entrance age) must hold a permit or credential issued by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing that authorizes instruction in kindergarten or child care and development. (Cal. Educ. Code § 48005.35)
Colorado	Not specified in statute
Connecticut	Full-day kindergarten programs receiving money from the early reading success grant program must provide professional development in the teaching of reading and reading readiness and assessment of reading competency for kindergarten teachers. (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-265f)
Delaware	Not specified in statute
District of Columbia	Not specified in statute
Florida	Not specified in statute
Georgia	Not specified in statute
Hawaii	Not specified in statute
Idaho	Not specified in statute
Illinois	Not specified in statute
Indiana	Not specified in statute
Iowa	Not specified in statute
Kansas	Not specified in statute
Kentucky	Not specified in statute
Louisiana	Not specified in statute
Maine	Not specified in statute
Maryland	To receive certification to teach pre-kindergarten through grade 3, an applicant

	must complete at least one course in child development. (Md. Regs. Code tit. 13A., § 12.02.03)
Massachusetts	Kindergarten teachers must possess a certification for teaching grades Pre-K through 2. (Mass. Regs. Code tit. 603, § 7.04)
Michigan	Not specified in statute
Minnesota	Not specified in statute
Mississippi	"Licensure to teach in Mississippi pre-kindergarten through kindergarten classrooms shall require a completion of a teacher education program or a bachelor of science degree with child development emphasis". (Miss. Code Ann. § 37-3-2)
Missouri	Not specified in statute
Montana	Not specified in statute
Nebraska	Not specified in statute
Nevada	Not specified in statute
New Hampshire	Not specified in statute
New Jersey	Not specified in statute
New Mexico	Not specified in statute
New York	Not specified in statute
North Carolina	Not specified in statute
North Dakota	Not specified in statute
Ohio	Teachers must receive instruction and field-based experience in teaching students in grades K-3. (Oh. Rev. Code Ann. § 3301-23-02)
Oklahoma	As of January 1, 1993, all kindergarten teachers must be certified in early childhood education. (Okla. Stat. Ann. tit.70 § 10-105).
Oregon	Not specified in statute
Pennsylvania	Not specified in statute
Puerto Rico	Teachers to be certified in the kindergarten category must have special training in that area. (P.R. Laws Ann. § 145o)
Rhode Island	Not specified in statute
South Carolina	Not specified in statute

South Dakota	Not specified in statute
Tennessee	Not specified in statute
Texas	Not specified in statute
Utah	Not specified in statute
Vermont	Not specified in statute
Virgin Islands	Not specified in statute
Virginia	Each school board's plan for kindergarten programs must include "scheduling an agenda of in-service activities for kindergarten teachers to ensure adequate preparation for the program". (Va. Code Ann.§ 22.1-199[A][4]) "...In placing teachers, school boards shall fill positions with licensed instructional personnel qualified in the relevant subject areas". (Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-195[A])
Washington	Not specified in statute
West Virginia	In developing a plan for transitioning to developmental programming and instruction for students in grades K-4, the state board shall develop "an ongoing program for training of principals and classroom teachers in methods of instruction to implement the developmental program." (W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-2-5)
Wisconsin	Not specified in statute
Wyoming	Not specified in statute

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