



United Way of Utah

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#utahkidsfirst

HB99 Enhanced Kindergarten Amendments, sponsored by Rep. Snow Investing in Optional Extended-Day Kindergarten (OEK)

Research has shown that students who attend quality early-childhood programs like kindergarten **are more likely to go on to college, earn more, and save for retirement as adults.**

However, many Utah children are showing up to kindergarten not knowing their numbers or letters. While kindergarten can be a time to learn these skills, students may not get the time they need in a half-day program to prepare them for 1st grade.

EXPANDING PROGRAMS FROM HALF- TO FULL-DAY HELPS CLOSE ACHIEVEMENT GAPS, WHILE SAVING SCHOOLS, DISTRICTS AND THE STATE MONEY LONG-TERM.

Utah data shows a *higher percent of OEK students moved up one or more performance levels.*¹

40% of OEK students **moved up in literacy** from entry to exit *compared to* **16%** of students who did not have OEK

29% of OEK students **moved up in numeracy** from entry to exit *compared to* **11%** of students who did not have OEK

The Optional Extended-Day Kindergarten program is a grant program that helps cover the cost of full-day kindergarten for school districts. **Utah currently spends \$10.38 million on extended learning, but \$2.88 million will be removed in 2020 unless we take action.**

Join United Way of Salt Lake and invest in Utah children. **Support HB99 Enhanced Kindergarten Amendments this legislative session, with \$18M in ongoing funds.**

OPTIONAL EXTENDED-DAY KINDERGARTEN:

- Contributes to increased school readiness
- Leads to higher academic achievement
- Improves student attendance
- Supports literacy and language development
- Enhances children's social and emotional development

ONLY 24% of Utah children have access to Extended-Day K, compared to **80% nationally**

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¹ Utah's KEEEP Report 2018-2019, Utah State Board of Education