
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.

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.

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.

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**OPTIONAL EXTENDED-DAY KINDERGARTEN:**

- Contributes to increased school readiness
- Leads to higher academic achievement
- 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.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Garbe:

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¹ Utah’s KEEP Report 2018-2019, Utah State Board of Education