

Fact:

*All Children Benefit from
High-Quality Full-Day
Kindergarten Programs*

Research shows the importance of full-day kindergarten programs. Yet, those programs are not currently available to about 40 percent of kindergarten-aged children nationwide. As a result, many of our young learners begin first grade several steps behind their peers. Full-day kindergarten helps make sure that students build the strong base of learning they will need to succeed throughout school and life.

How do we know that full-day kindergarten is a successful strategy for closing achievement gaps and encouraging student success?

Full-day kindergarten:

Increases Student Achievement

Longitudinal data demonstrate that children in full-day kindergarten classes show greater reading and mathematics achievement gains than those in half-day classes. (Walston and West)

Full-day kindergarten can produce long-term educational gains, especially for low-income and minority students. (Education Commission of the States)

In full-day kindergarten classrooms, teachers have more time to get to know kids and identify and address their learning challenges early—saving money and resources over the long term and increasing the odds that children will be successful later in school. (Center for Evaluation and Education Policy)

Full-day kindergarten also:

Results in Healthier, Happier Children

Full-day kindergarten offers social, emotional *and* intellectual benefits to kindergarteners, giving them more time to focus and reflect on activities, and transition between them.

(National Institute for Early Education Research)

Research shows that 5-year-olds are more than ready for a longer school day—and do better in a setting that allows them time to learn and explore activities in depth.

Is Cost Effective

Investments in quality early childhood programs generate returns of 3-to-1 or even higher, which translates to \$3 saved for every \$1 invested. An early investment in children's social, emotional and intellectual skills means lower grade retention and dropout rates for students later in life. (Economic Policy Institute and Committee for Economic Development)

Better Prepares Students for First Grade

Full-day kindergarten provides a bridge between prekindergarten programs and more structured learning in first grade. (Education Commission of the States)

Is Preferred by Teachers and Parents

Teachers prefer full-day kindergarten. Teachers cite several benefits of having additional time to work with young students. (Early Childhood Research Quarterly)

Parents prefer full-day kindergarten. In a 2000 study, 100 percent of full-day parents and 72 percent of half-day parents noted that, if given the opportunity again, they would have chosen full-day kindergarten for their child. (National Center for Educational Statistics)