

All-Day, Every-Day Kindergarten Frequently Asked Questions

Question:

Are all public school districts required to offer all-day, every-day kindergarten?

Answer:

Beginning in the 2010-2011 school year, all city, local, and exempted village school districts must provide all-day, every-day kindergarten to each kindergarten student, unless the district receives a waiver from the requirement.

Question:

What if a district is unable to provide all-day, every-day kindergarten beginning in the 2010-2011 school year?

Answer:

If offering all-day, every-day kindergarten is not possible for the 2010-2011 school year, the superintendent may apply for a waiver. The waiver must include a copy of the local school board resolution that contains a request for delay of all-day, every-day kindergarten and justification for seeking a waiver; and a copy of the local school district plan for providing all-day, every-day kindergarten in school year 2011-2012.

Question:

If a school district provides all-day, every-day kindergarten may they charge tuition?

Answer:

Districts that had a tuition-based all-day kindergarten program in place during the 2008-2009 school year may continue to charge tuition through the 2010-2011 school year. The tuition amounts cannot exceed those charged during the 2008-2009 school year. No district may charge a fee for providing all-day, every-day kindergarten starting in the 2011-2012 school year.

Question:

Do all children have to attend all-day, every-day kindergarten?

Answer:

No. Should a parent request the half-time kindergarten schedule, the school district shall accommodate the request.

Question:

How many hours of instruction are required for all-day, every-day kindergarten?

Answer:

School districts must offer the same number of hours as provided for first through sixth grade students.

Question:

Can a district partner with an outside entity to provide all-day, every-day kindergarten?

Answer:

According to ORC 3321.05 (E) a school district may partner with a licensed child care center to provide the district's all-day kindergarten program. The law does not specify the terms of those partnerships and thus is up to the individual communities to determine the terms of such agreements.

Question:

If providing all-day kindergarten continues to be a hardship for the 2011-2012 school year, can a district apply for an additional waiver?

Answer:

Yes. The provisions of HB 1 were not changed and districts can apply for additional waivers.

Question:

Can a district lease space from a child-care center?

Answer:

Yes. A school district may lease space from a licensed child-care center, with full responsibility for the kindergarten program resting with the school district. If a district does lease space, program licensing for the child-care center operation applies only to the child care services, not kindergarten.

Question:

What impact does the class-size reduction requirement have on the all-day kindergarten requirement?

Answer:

H.B. 1 does not change the required class size for any grade level. The current Operating Standards for Ohio Schools, and the class sizes contained in the operating standards will apply in the 2010-2011 school year.

Any questions not addressed in this document can be emailed to: ELSR@ode.state.oh.us