

State K-3 Policies

How many instructional hours are required for kindergarten?

September 2020

At least 41 states addressed age exemptions or waivers in reference to kindergarten entrance in state statute and/or regulations. At least 10 states plus the District of Columbia did not articulate specific exemption or waiver opportunities in statute or regulations.

The following information was gathered from state statutes and regulations only.

To view other data points, click [here](#).

STATE ▲	HOW MANY INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS ARE REQUIRED FOR KINDERGARTEN?	CITATION
Alabama	1080 hours per year; Instructional hours shall match the elementary school in which the kindergarten program takes place	Ala.Code 1975 § 16-13-231 Ala. Admin. Code 290-5-1-01
Alaska	740 hours per year for grades K-3	Alaska Stat. Ann. § 14.03.030; Alaska Stat. Ann. § 14.03.040
Arizona	356 hours per year for kindergarten	Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 15-901
Arkansas	6 hours a day; 30 hours a week	A.C.A. § 6-16-102

STATE ▲	HOW MANY INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS ARE REQUIRED FOR KINDERGARTEN?	CITATION
California	3 hours a day (600 hours a year)	Cal. Educ. Code § 46117 Cal. Educ. Code § 46201
Colorado	435 hours for half-day kindergarten, 870 hours for full-day kindergarten	Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-32-109 (II)(A)
Connecticut	450 hours per year for half-day kindergarten, 900 hours per year for full-day kindergarten	Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 10-16
Delaware	1060 hours per year for grades K-3	Del. Code Ann. tit. 14, § 1049
District of Columbia	Not specified in statute or regulations.	
Florida	720 hours per year in grades K-3.	Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1011.61
Georgia	4.5 hours (270 minutes) per day for grades K-3	Ga Comp. R. & Regs. 160-5-1-02
Hawaii	1080 hours per year for elementary and secondary grades	Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 302A-251
Idaho	A minimum of 450 hours per school year	Idaho Code Ann. § 33.512
Illinois	Not specified in statute or regulations.	
Indiana	Not specified in statute or regulations.	
Iowa	Not specified in statute or regulations.	
Kansas	465 hours per year for kindergarten	Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-3115
Kentucky	6 hours per day for all grades except kindergarten, which may be operated for less than 6 hours per day.	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 158.060
Louisiana	Kindergarten not specified in statute or regulations. 6 hours per day for grades 1-12	La. Stat. Ann. § 17:154.1 28 La. Admin. Code Pt CXV, 333

STATE ▲	HOW MANY INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS ARE REQUIRED FOR KINDERGARTEN?	CITATION
Maine	Minimum of 3 hours in length for K-12	Code Me. R. tit. 05-071 Ch. 125, § 5
Maryland	(a): 180 school days and minimum of 1,080 school hours during 10-month period each school year.	Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-103
Massachusetts	425 hours per year for kindergarten. For full-day kindergarten, school committees must ensure equal instructional time for all students	603 Mass. Code Regs. 27.03
Michigan	1,098 hours for full-day	Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 388.1701
Minnesota	425 hours per year for half-day kindergarten. 850 hours per year for full-day kindergarten	Minn. Stat. Ann. § 120A.41
Mississippi	5.5 hours per day for all grades	Miss. Code. Ann. § 37-13-67
Missouri	522 hours per year for kindergarten	Mo. Ann. Stat. § 163.021
Montana	360 hours for a half-time kindergarten program or 720 hours for a full-time kindergarten program	Mont. Code Ann. § 20-1-301
Nebraska	2 hours a day for kindergarten	Nev. Admin. Code 387.131
Nevada	2 hours (120 minutes) per day	Nev. Admin. Code 387.131
New Hampshire	450 hours per year for kindergarten	N.H. Code Admin. R. Ed 401.03
New Jersey	2.5 hours for full-day kindergarten	N.J. Admin. Code § 6A:32-8.3
New Mexico	2.5 hours a day (450 hours a year) for half day kindergarten; 5.5 hours a day (990 hours) a year for full day	N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-2-8.1
New York	2.5 hours for half-day kindergarten. 5 hours for full-day kindergarten.	N.Y. Comp. Codes R. & Regs. tit. 8, § 175.5

STATE ▲	HOW MANY INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS ARE REQUIRED FOR KINDERGARTEN?	CITATION
North Carolina	1,025 hours or 185 days for all students	N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 115C-84.2
North Dakota	2.75 hours for half-day kindergarten	N.D. Cent. Code Ann. § 15.1-22-02
Ohio	455 hours per year for half-day kindergarten. 910 hours per year for full-day kindergarten and grade 1-6.	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3313.48 Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3321.05
Oklahoma	2.5 hours per day or 6 hours per day for kindergarten	Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70, § 18-108 Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70, § 1-111
Oregon	450 hours of instruction per year for half-day kindergarten. 900 hours of instruction per year for full-day kindergarten through grade 8	Or. Admin. R. 581-022-2320
Pennsylvania	450 hours per year for kindergarten (2.5 hours/day)	22 Pa. Code § 51.61
Rhode Island	5.5 hours per day for full day kindergarten	16 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 16-99-3
South Carolina	6 hours per day	S.C. Code Ann. § 59-1-425
South Dakota	437.5 hours per year for half-day	S.D. Codified Laws § 13-26-1
Tennessee	4 hours per day	Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-201
Texas	7 hours a day for full-day kindergarten	Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 29.0822
Utah	990 hours per year (5.5 hours per day for K-12)	Utah Admin. Code r. R277-419-4

STATE ▲	HOW MANY INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS ARE REQUIRED FOR KINDERGARTEN?	CITATION
Vermont	Minimum of 2 hours a day; 10 hours a week	Vermont State Board of Education Manual of Rules and Practices
Virginia	5.5 hours a day for kindergarten (540 hours a year)	Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-79.1
Washington	1,000 hour per year for for grades K-8	Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 28A.150.220
West Virginia	5.25 hours per day for grades K-5	W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-5-45
Wisconsin	437 hours per year for kindergarten	Wis. Stat. Ann. § 121.02
Wyoming	450 hours per year minimum for kindergarten. 900 hours per year minimum in elementary grades.	Wyo. Admin. Code § EDU GEN Ch. 22 s 5 Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 21-2-304