

State K-3 Policies

Does the state require children to attend kindergarten?

September 2020

At least 19 states plus the District of Columbia require children to attend kindergarten based on state statutes or regulations. Of those that require children to attend kindergarten, guidance is provided to articulate that children must attend or pass an academic readiness screening to enter grade one. States that do not require kindergarten attendance have been identified by their compulsory age requirements or specific indication in statutes and regulations.

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

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

STATE ▲	DOES THE STATE REQUIRE CHILDREN TO ATTEND KINDERGARTEN?	CITATION
Alabama	No	
Alaska	No	
Arizona	No	
Arkansas	Yes	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-207 Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-201
California	No	

STATE ▲	DOES THE STATE REQUIRE CHILDREN TO ATTEND KINDERGARTEN?	CITATION
Colorado	No	Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-32-119.5
Connecticut	Yes	Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 10-184 Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 10-15c
Delaware	Yes	Del. Code Ann. tit. 14, § 1049
District of Columbia	Yes	D.C. Code Ann. § 38-202
Florida	No	
Georgia	No	
Hawaii	Yes	Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 302A-411
Idaho	No	Idaho Code Ann. § 33.208
Illinois	No	105 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/10-20.12
Indiana	No	Ind. Code Ann. § 20-33-2-8
Iowa	Not specified in statute or regulations.	
Kansas	Not specified in statute or regulations.	
Kentucky	No	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 158.030
Louisiana	Yes - or otherwise satisfactorily pass an academic readiness screening upon enrollment in grade 1	La. Stat. Ann. § 17:151.3 28 La. Admin. Code Pt CXV, 1107
Maine	Not specified in statute or regulations.	
Maryland	Yes	Md. Code Ann., Educ. § 7-301

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Massachusetts	Not specified in statute or regulations.	
Michigan	No	
Minnesota	No	Minn. Stat. Ann. § 120A.20
Mississippi	Not specified in statute or regulations.	
Missouri	No	Mo. Ann. Stat. § 160.053
Montana	No	Mont. Code Ann. § 20-5-102
Nebraska	Yes - or otherwise be assessed as prepared to enter grade 1	Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 392.040
Nevada	Yes	Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 392.040
New Hampshire	No	
New Jersey	No- children are required to attend full-day kindergarten in Abbott Districts	N.J. Admin. Code §6A:24-3.2
New Mexico	Yes	N.M. Stat. Ann. § 22-1-2
New York	No	N.Y. Educ. Law § 3205 (McKinney)
North Carolina	No- the initial entry point into school is kindergarten, but a principal may override this for an exceptionally mature student and place the child in grade 1 by the principal	N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 115C-378 N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 115C-364
North Dakota	No	
Ohio	Yes	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3321.01
Oklahoma	Yes - minimum half day attendance	Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 70, § 10-105
Oregon	No	Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 336.095

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Pennsylvania	Yes	24 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 5-503
Rhode Island	Yes	16 R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 16-2-28
South Carolina	Yes	S.C. Code Ann. § 59-65-10
South Dakota	Yes	S.D. Codified Laws § 13-27-1
Tennessee	Yes	Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-201
Texas	No	Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 42.003
Utah	No	Utah Code Ann. § 53A-3-402.7
Vermont	No	
Virginia	Yes	Va. Code Ann. § 22.1-199
Washington	No	Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 28A.225.010
West Virginia	Yes	W. Va. Code Ann. § 18-8-1a
Wisconsin	Yes - attendance required in districts that offer kindergarten	Wis. Stat. Ann. § 118.33
Wyoming	Not specified in statute or regulations.	