



Frequently Asked Questions about Kindergarten

Q: *Does a kindergarten class have to be half day?*

A: Kindergarten may be half day or full day (School Code [105 ILCS 5/10-20.19a](#)).

Q: *My school district has a full day program, but I only want my child to go half days. May I request a half day program for my child?*

A: If a district establishes a full day program, it must also provide a half day program for those families who want it (School Code [105ILCS 5/10-22.18](#)).

Q: *How many hours are required to have a full day program?*

A: Four clock hours may be counted as a day of attendance for kindergarten (School Code [105 ILCS 5/18-8.05](#)).

Q: *How many hours are required for a half day program?*

A: Two clock hours may be counted as a half-day of attendance (School Code [105 ILCS 5/18-8.05](#)).

Q: *My child is 5 years old and is handicapped. Must he attend kindergarten for 2 hours to be considered half time?*

A: One clock hour may be counted as a half day of attendance for handicapped children below the age of six (School Code [105 ILCS 5/18-8.05](#)).

Q: *Does my child have to attend kindergarten?*

A: Kindergarten attendance is optional in Illinois (School Code [105 ILCS 5/26-1](#)).

Q: *Do most children attend kindergarten?*

A: Ninety-eight percent of American students attend at least a half day of kindergarten prior to first grade ([NAEYC Beyond the Journal: State Kindergarten Policies](#)).

Q: *At what age does a child have to attend school?*

A: A child does not have to attend school until his seventh birthday (School Code (105ILCS 5/26-1)).

Q: *My child will be 5 years old on September 30. Will he be eligible for kindergarten?*

A: Any child who will be five on or before September 1 may attend school at the beginning of the school term (School Code 105 ILCS 5/10-20.12).

Q: *Is there anyway I can get my child into school when he is not age eligible?*

A: Based on an assessment of a child's readiness, a school district may permit a child to enter school at a younger age (School Code 105 ILCS 5/10-20.12).

Q: *Do most kindergarten students attend school half day or full day?*

A: About 57% of the kindergarten classes in Illinois are all day everyday (Data Analysis and Progress reporting, Illinois State Board of Education).

Q: *What does research tell us about all day versus half day kindergarten?*

A: Research has found that children who attended all-day kindergarten scored higher on standardized test, had fewer grade retentions, and had fewer Chapter 1 placements (Recent Research on All-Day Kindergarten, Patricia Clark Eric Digest).