

FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN NOW

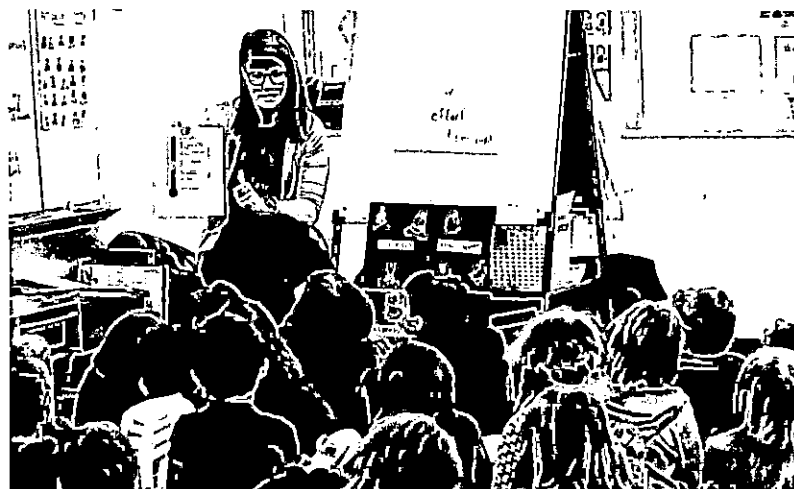


Full-Day Kindergarten: A foundation for learning in Colorado

Colorado prospers when our kids thrive because they are our future workforce, leaders and community members. No matter where they live in our state—the plains, mountains, rural areas or urban centers—children need high-quality support for development. The foundation of our well-being in Colorado starts with a strong early childhood and education system—yet that base is currently missing a critical piece: statewide funding for full-day kindergarten.

Why is full-day kindergarten such a wise investment?

- **Better prepared children.** The research on full-day kindergarten and its benefits are robust and linked strongly to math and literacy skills and overall academic growth. In addition, full-day kindergarten helps educators identify children with developmental delays and special learning needs earlier and support them with appropriate interventions.
- **Help for family budgets.** Many parents, even those with low incomes in many communities, must pay tuition to access a full-day experience. With tuition reaching more than \$4,500 per school year in some communities, this cost is either prohibitive or represents a strain on many family budgets that full funding could alleviate.
- **Help for school budgets.** Many school districts, especially in rural areas, are already absorbing the cost of providing full-day kindergarten. Ensuring adequate state investment will alleviate pressure on many school district budgets to invest in local priorities such as teacher pay, smaller class sizes, and other support services.
- **Expanded early learning.** Fully funding full-day kindergarten frees up more than 5,000 early learning slots currently used to support full-day kindergarten access for at-risk children. Only 24 percent of 4-year-olds in Colorado have access to state-funded preschool and there are several thousand children on our waitlist. Fully investing in full-day kindergarten allows us to open up preschool access for children to help ensure that they arrive in kindergarten ready to thrive.



What is being proposed?

Fully fund full-day students rather than just for a half-day

Parents will no longer face tuition costs and districts will free up resources previously spent on full-day kindergarten to address local needs. This proposal is not a mandate for school districts to offer full-day kindergarten nor is it a mandate for parents to enroll their children in a full day. Rather, it adequately funds parents' educational choices.

Expand access to preschool

Allow districts to retain ECARE slots currently used in kindergarten to expand access to preschool.

How will this be paid for?

Improved state revenue

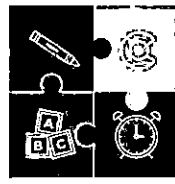
Higher than expected property tax revenues, in particular, have created flexibility in funding for education. This allows the state to increase its investment in early learning and also add to the reserves to save for any future downturn, all without raising taxes.



How do we sustain this?

Sustainable revenue & rainy day savings

The most recent revenue forecast includes higher than expected property tax revenues that allow this investment to be paid for within the existing budget and without having to cut from any other priorities. The budget proposal includes more than \$180 million for reserves, allowing Colorado to save for a rainy day and sustain this investment in future years. The budget proposal also decreases the budget stabilization factor by \$77 million, freeing up additional resources for districts to invest in local priorities.



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www.fulldayk.co

Kindergarten Now Coalition

Academy 20 School District
Adams 12 Five Star Schools
Adams County School District 14
AFT Colorado
Anna Jo Haynes, President Emeritus, Mile High Early Learning
Aurora Public Schools
Bent County Early Learning Center
Boulder Valley School District
Bright by Three
Bright Futures
Bright Futures--Strong Start Program
Brush School District
Campo School District RE-6
Cañon City School District Fremont RE-1
Chelsie Hess, Ph.D., Colorado Mesa University,
Assistant Professor of Psychology
Cherry Creek School District
Cheyenne Mountain School District 12
Children's Hospital Colorado
Clayton Early Learning
Colorado Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs
Colorado Association for the Education of Young Children
Colorado Association for Gifted and Talented
Colorado Association of School Boards
Colorado Association of School Executives
Colorado Business Roundtable
Colorado Charter School Institute
Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Education Association
Colorado Latino Leadership Advocacy & Research
Organization (CLLARO)
Colorado League of Charter Schools
Colorado Nonprofit Association
Colorado PTA
Colorado Rural Schools Alliance
Colorado State University
Colorado Succeeds
Community Foundation Boulder County
Council for a Strong America
Delta County School District
Democrats for Education Reform
Denver's Early Childhood Council
Denver Preschool Program
Denver Public Schools
Douglas County Federation/AFT CO
Durango School District 9-R
Early Childhood Council Leadership Alliance (ECCLA)
Early Childhood Leadership Commission (ECLC)
Early Childhood Council of Boulder County
Early Childhood Council of La Plata County
Early Childhood Council San Luis Valley
Early Childhood Options
Early Childhood Partnership of Adams County
Education Reform Now
Elbert County Early Childhood Council
Englewood Schools
Environmental Learning for Kids
Executives Partnering to Invest in Children
Gary Community Investments
Great Education Colorado
Greeley School District 6
Harrison School District 2
Healthier Colorado
Healthy Child Care Colorado
Huerfano- Las Animas Counties Early Childhood Council
Illuminate Colorado
Jewish Community Relations Council
Junior League of Denver
Kidpower of Colorado
KIPP Colorado Schools
Kristie Kauerz, Ph.D., CU Denver School of Education and
Human Development
Lake County School District
Las Animas School District
Littleton Public Schools
Mapleton Public Schools
Mile High Early Learning
Mile High United Way
Padres & Jovenes Unidos
Parent Possible
PEAK Parent Center
Pikes Peak Area School District Alliance
Public Education & Business Coalition (PEBC)
Pueblo District 60
Rocky Ford School District
Rocky Mountain Early Childhood Council
Rose Community Foundation
Save the Children Action Network
Sheridan School District
St. Vrain Valley School District
Stand for Children
Teach Plus
The Arc of Colorado
The Denver Foundation
The Kempe Foundation
The Women's Foundation of Colorado
Together Colorado
Transform Education Now (TEN)
Westminster Public Schools
Wiggins Preschool