



## Frequently Asked Questions About Kindergarten

**Q: *Does a kindergarten class have to be full 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. ([Participation in Early Childhood Programs](#))

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

A: A child does not have to attend school until his/her sixth birthday.  
(School Code [105 ILCS 2/26-1](#))

**Q: *My child will be 5 years old on September 30<sup>th</sup>. 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 any way 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 79% of the kindergarten classes in Illinois are all day everyday. ([Data Analysis, 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 tests, had fewer grade retentions, and had fewer Chapter I placements. ([Research on all-day kindergarten](#))