



OFFICE OF GOVERNOR MARK DAYTON

www.mn.gov/governor | May 2013

Investing in All Day Kindergarten

Starting Early is Minnesota's Best Investment

Parents and teachers agree that investing in our youngest learners delivers results. That's why the Governor and the legislature made an historic investment in all-day Kindergarten, ensuring every Minnesota student has access, free of charge.

All Day Kindergarten Works

Minnesota students do better when we invest in programs that work. All-Day Kindergarten has a proven track record of success, preparing young learners for success in school.

- » **The Studies Prove It.** Numerous studies done over the past two decades show that All-Day K programs consistently lead to better preparedness for students and higher achievement over the long term.
- » **The Return on Investment is Real.** All-Day K is a wise investment in our children's future, with some studies suggesting a return on investment as high as 3:1.
- » **All-Day K Will Narrow the Achievement Gap.** Minnesota has one of the nation's most glaring achievement gaps, ranking 49th among the 50 states. A growing body of research shows that All-Day K programs lead to higher academic achievement and reduced achievement gaps between students of different socioeconomic groups.

We Need to Invest in Our Kindergarteners

Right now, half of all Minnesota children enter Kindergarten without the knowledge and skills they need to succeed. By investing in All-Day Kindergarten, we can invest the time and resources we need to properly prepare Kindergartners for success in First Grade and beyond.

- » **Universal Access to All-Day K.** All-Day Kindergarten is available for free to 54% of Minnesota students under current law. But this new investment provides this crucial learning opportunity to 100% of Minnesota students.
- » **Preparing Our Children for Lifelong Learning.** Children who complete All-Day Kindergarten are better prepared to learn when they get to First Grade. They have a stronger grasp of appropriate behavior and learning skills, and the transition to grade school is much easier for them.
- » **Reducing the Need for Special Education and Remediation.** Students who benefit from All-Day Kindergarten have a lesser need for additional help in later years and face a decreased likelihood of having to repeat a grade, receive remedial support or be referred to special education programs.