

Policy Domain Framework

Domain VII: Education in the Early Grades

**A Product of the Policy Matters Project
National Center for Children and Families
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***POLICY FEATURES AND LEVELS FOR DOMAIN VII:
EDUCATION IN THE EARLY GRADES***

SUB-DOMAIN VII.A: KINDERGARTEN

NATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS		STATE POLICY PLANNING			
Policy Feature	Policy Levels	Evidence	Source of Policy	Current Policy Level	Desired Policy Level
VII.A.1 Public Kindergarten Provision: State requires school districts to provide kindergarten LONG TERM PRORITY #1 (ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY)	1. State requires all school districts to provide full-day, 5-day/week kindergarten to serve all children whose parents wish to enroll them 2. State requires all school districts to offer full-day, 5-day/week kindergarten, but supply need not meet demand 3. State requires all school districts to provide half-day, 5-day/week kindergarten to serve all children whose parents wish to enroll them 4. State requires all school districts to offer half-day, 5-day/week kindergarten in district, but supply need not meet demand 5. No kindergarten provision requirements	1. State statue requires local education agencies to offer free public education to children age 5 years through 20 years when they are attending kindergarten through grade 12. 2. State statue requires local education agencies to provide 1060 hours of daily school sessions to kindergarten age children. This is the same number of hours required of grades 1-11. 3. State statute requires children to attend kindergarten if five by August 31st of the year they turn five. state - requires hours federal requires days K - same as K- 12 districts can decide how many hours per day	1. DOE website for free public education: http://delcode.delaware.gov/title14/c002/sc01/index.shtml 2. DOW website for the number of hours of required daily school sessions: http://delcode.delaware.gov/title14/c010/sc03/index.shtml 3. DOE website for kindergarten attendance statute language: http://delcode.delaware.gov/title14/c027/sc01/index.shtml Notes: Thirteen of sixteen school districts that offer kindergarten have full day kindergarten available. All charter schools that offer kindergarten provide full day kindergarten. Three school districts (Christina, Indian River and Milford) do not yet have full day. Milford has a current capacity issue and once a new elementary school is completed will provide full day kindergarten. Christina and Indian River do not have the local funding capacity to offer full day kindergarten and have been annually providing a letter to the Secretary of Education requesting a waiver of the full day requirement. (1) If 18 or more parents request 1/2 day - district has to have that available (2) Full day - Districts can opt out of full day 3 districts not have full day	# 2 with exceptions Notes:	#1 1. Concern with quality of kindergarten programming 2. Many children are already in full day prek settings

<p>VII.A.2 Full-Day Kindergarten Funding Parity: State funding for public kindergarten provides adequate funding for full-day kindergarten</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State financing formula provides funding for full-day, [1] 5-day/week kindergarten for all children, at a level equal to or greater than that for first grade 2. State categorical funding programs provides funding for full-day, 5-day/week kindergarten for some children, at a level equal to or greater than that for first grade 3. State does not provide any funding for full-day kindergarten that is equal to or greater than that for first grade 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chapter 17 of the state code outlines the state appropriations for school funding. Section 1703 provides and explanation of what constitutes a unit of funding for kindergarten. 2. Web site takes to state legislation legislating full day kindergarten 3. Item 3 refers to the budget epilogue which provides approval for the use of needs based funding. This changes the funding formula for education. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. http://delcode.delaware.gov/title14/c017/index.shtml 2. http://delcode.delaware.gov/sessionlaws/ga143/chp440.shtml 3. http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/lis145.nsf/vwLegislation/HB+290/\$file/legis.pdf?open <p>Notes: Needs based funding changes the unit funding system. The new funding system provides for a basic K-3 funding mechanism of 1 unit for every 16.2 children.</p>	<p># 2 Notes:</p> <p>Funds 70% state 30% local</p> <p>Adequate funding for referendum - funding equal to first grade</p>	<p>#2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There should be needs based funding that addresses children living in poverty, English Language Learners and other at risk indicators for children entering K
<p>VII.A.3 Funding for Kindergarten: State provides for kindergarten if a district chooses to offer it</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State provides funding for kindergarten for any district that offers it 2. State provides funding for kindergarten for some districts 3. State does not provide funding for kindergarten in any districts 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Web site references state appropriations for public school which includes state funding for education beginning at kindergarten. 2. Item 1 references the requirement for all children that are 5 by August 31st are required to receive kindergarten services or be enrolled in a public school. 3. Web site references school districts developing policy about kindergarten attendance hours 4. Web site references statute language allowing district to modify capital outlay activities to accommodate space needs 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. http://delcode.delaware.gov/title14/c017/index.shtml 2. http://delcode.delaware.gov/title14/c027/sc01/index.shtml 3. http://delcode.delaware.gov/title14/c010/sc03/index.shtml 4. http://delcode.delaware.gov/sessionlaws/ga143/chp004.shtml 5. http://delcode.delaware.gov/title14/c002/sc01/index.shtml 	<p># 1 Notes:</p>	<p>#1</p>

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SUB-DOMAIN VII.B: TEACHER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS		STATE POLICY PLANNING			
Policy Feature	Policy Levels	Evidence	Source of Policy	Current Policy Level	Desired Policy Level
<p>VII.B.1 Kindergarten Teacher Qualifications: State has established developmentally-appropriate professional standards for kindergarten teachers</p> <p>LONG TERM PRIORITY #2 Linked to #1</p>	<p>1. State requires every kindergarten teacher to have specific certification/endorsement in early childhood AND annual training related to early childhood development/education</p> <p>2. State requires every kindergarten teacher to have either a specific certificate/endorsement in early childhood OR annual training related to early childhood development, but not both</p> <p>3. State does not require kindergarten teachers to have any training or education in early childhood development</p>	<p>The state requires specific certification in birth-2 or k-6 or endorsement in early childhood for kindergarten teachers to work in Delaware public schools There is not a requirement for yearly professional development related to early childhood. There is a 90 hour requirement for professional development for Continuing license renewal , however, it is not specific to content of the professional development</p>	<p># http://delcode.delaware.gov/title14 Del. Adm Code 1520</p>	<p># 3 Notes:</p>	<p># 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Group wants to require BS in Education with concentration in EC 2. There is a concern about the Praxis being a vehicle to obtain an EC certificate 3. Ongoing monitoring of teacher preparation programs especially preparation for teaching in high needs settings

NATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS		STATE POLICY PLANNING			
Policy Feature	Policy Levels	Evidence	Source of Policy	Current Policy Level	Desired Policy Level
VII.B.2 Grades 1-3 Teacher Qualifications: State has established developmentally-appropriate professional standards for what teachers in grades 1-3	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State requires every grade 1-3 teacher to have specific certification/endorsement in early childhood AND annual training related to early childhood development and education 2. State requires every grade 1-3 teacher to have either a specific certificate/endorsement in early childhood OR annual training related to early childhood development, but not both 3. State does not require grade 1-3 teachers to have any training or education in early childhood development 	The state requires specific certification in K-6 or an endorsement for Elementary teachers to teach in Delaware public schools. There is not a requirement for yearly professional development related to early childhood. There is, however, a 90 hour requirement for professional development for Continuing license renewal. There is no specific content indicated in this requirement.	# http://delcode.delaware.gov/title14 Del.AdmCode 1521	# 3 Notes:	#1 1. State and private
			VII.B.1 Kindergarten Teacher Qualifications: State has established developmentally-appropriate professional standards for kindergarten teachers		
Discussion: Notes: K Teacher can take Praxis for EC and be certified K-6 University of DE K-12 - no requirement Private sector program - 9 credits in EC NCATE standards for K					

SUB-DOMAIN VII.C: CLASS SIZE

NATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS		STATE POLICY PLANNING			
Policy Feature	Policy Levels	Evidence	Source of Policy	Current Policy Level	Desired Policy Level
VII.C.1 Kindergarten Class Size: State has established developmentally appropriate class sizes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum kindergarten class size is 16 or smaller Maximum kindergarten class size is between 16 and 25 Maximum kindergarten class size is 25 or larger No statewide requirements for kindergarten class size 	State policy - 22 in a class Districts can request waiver process	# http://delcode.delaware.gov/title14 Del. Adm Code 1521	# 2 Notes Private schools do not follow this regulation	# 2 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 to 12 adult/ child ratio added requirement for all classrooms Determinations should be needs-based ratio decisions to address classrooms with high risk children Reevaluate waiver system OR discontinue waivers - to prevent abuse of system
			Notes:		

<p>VII.C.2 Class Size in Grades 1-3: State has established developmentally appropriate class sizes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maximum class size 16 or smaller in grades 1-3 2. Maximum class size between 16 and 25 in grades 1-3 3. Maximum class size below 25 for 1, 2, or 3 grade 4. Maximum class size 25 or larger for grades 1-3 5. No statewide requirement for maximum class size 	<p>State policy 22 in class Districts can request waiver process</p>	<p># http://delcode.delaware.gov/title14 Del. Adm Code 1521</p>	<p># 2 Notes:</p>	<p># 2</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Includes state and private schools? 2. Adhere to state policy of 22 children in class 3. Reevaluate or discontinue waivers 4. Consider adult child ratios for classrooms with high need population
<p>Notes:</p>					
<p>Discussion:</p>					

SUB-DOMAIN VII.D: LEARNING STANDARDS, ASSESSMENT, AND CURRICULUM

NATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS		STATE POLICY PLANNING			
Policy Feature	Policy Levels	Evidence	Source of Policy	Current Policy Level	Desired Policy Level
VII.D.1 Kindergarten Learning Standards: State has kindergarten learning standards in the five dimensions of school readiness: language & literacy; cognitive & general knowledge; physical & motor development; social-emotional development; and approaches to learning SHORT TERM Priority #1 Linked with Assessment	1. State has standards specific to kindergarten that include all five dimensions of school readiness 2. State has standards specific to kindergarten that include four dimensions of school readiness 3. State has standards specific to kindergarten that include three dimensions of school readiness 4. State has standards specific for kindergarten that include less than three dimensions of school readiness 5. State has standards that include kindergarten, but not specific to kindergarten year 6. State has no learning standards that apply to kindergarten year	In ELA the writing standard GLE set-up is for K/1. Therefore, though there are specific GLEs for K/1 in writing, the standard is not specific to K, as required in the Policy Levels/National Recommendations. However, oral communication, a component of Standard 1, does include specific expectations for Kindergarten. Standards 2, 3, and 4 specify specific GLEs for Kindergarten. The math and science standards have specific GLEs for Kindergarten. What is on the web for the social studies standards does not clearly define the GLEs for Kindergarten (or any grade level). The webpage for GLEs is "under construction."	# http://www.education.com/reference/article/Ref_State_Delaware/ http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/staff/ci/content_areas/ela.shtml http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/staff/ci/content_areas/math.shtml http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/staff/ci/content_areas/science.shtml http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/staff/ci/content_areas/socialstudies.shtml http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/staff/ci/content_areas/phys_ed.shtml	# 3 Notes:	# 1 1. Need to embed five dimensions into the present K standards 2. Need to enhance present kindergarten standards
			Notes: The state's learning standards for Kindergarten and Grades 1-3 children are by content area. Therefore, there is an organizational disconnect between the "policy feature" dimensions identified and the state's content standards No Social emotional or Approaches to Learning Positive Behavior Support is available to schools Only 3 dimensions		

<p>VII.D.2 Learning Standards for Grades 1-3: State has learning standards for grades 1-3 that incorporate the five dimensions of school readiness: language & literacy; cognitive & general knowledge; physical & motor development; social-emotional development; and approaches to learning</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State has standards for grades 1-3 that include all five dimensions of school readiness 2. State has standards for grades 1-3 that include four dimensions of school readiness 3. State has standards for grades 1-3 that include three dimensions of school readiness 4. State has standards for grades 1-3 that include less than three dimensions of school readiness 5. State has no learning standards for grades 1-3 	<p>In ELA the writing standard GLE set-up is for K/1, 2 and 3. Therefore, though there are specific GLEs for K/1 in writing, the standard is not specific to grade 1 (though it is to grades 2 and 3), as required in the Policy Levels/National Recommendations. However, oral communication, a component of Standard 1, does include specific expectations for each grade 1-3. Standards 2, 3, and 4 specify specific GLEs for each grade, 1-3. The math and science standards have specific GLEs for grades 1-3. What is on the web for the social studies standards does not clearly define the GLEs for grades 1-3. The webpage for GLEs is “under construction” (for all content areas).</p>	<p># http://www.education.com/reference/article/Ref_State_Delaware/ http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/staff/ci/content_areas/ela.shtml http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/staff/ci/content_areas/math.shtml http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/staff/ci/content_areas/science.shtml http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/staff/ci/content_areas/socialstudies.shtml http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/staff/ci/content_areas/phys_ed.shtml</p> <p>Notes:</p> <p>The state’s learning standards for Kindergarten and Grades 1-3 children are by content area. Therefore, there is an organizational disconnect between the “policy feature” dimensions identified and the state’s content standards.</p> <p>No Social Emotional or Approaches to Learning</p>	<p># 3 Notes:</p>	<p># 1</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Need to embed five dimensions into the present K standards 2. Need to enhance present kindergarten standards
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NATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS		STATE POLICY PLANNING			
Policy Feature	Policy Levels	Evidence	Source of Policy	Current Policy Level	Desired Policy Level

VII.D.3 Kindergarten Instructional Assessment: State requires instructional assessment of kindergarteners to guide instruction SHORT TERM PRIORITY #1 Linked with Standards	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State mandates instructional assessment and provides financial supports 2. State mandates instructional assessment, but offers no financial supports 3. State recommends (or is silent) but provides financial supports 4. State provides no supports 	Instructional screenings for reading (and math) are mandated three times each regular school year at routine and fairly spaced intervals.	# http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/students_family/specialed/files/Special%20Education%20Regulations.pdf Special Education Regulations: DE Administrative Code Notes: Mandatory screenings & assessments are for READING only	# 3/4 Notes:	# 1 1. Assessment should be in five dimensions
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State mandates instructional assessment and provides financial supports 2. State mandates instructional assessment, but offers no financial supports 3. State recommends (or is silent) but provides supports 4. State provides no supports 	Instructional screenings for reading (and math) are mandated three times each regular school year at routine and fairly spaced intervals.	http://www.doe.k12.de.us/infosuites/students_family/specialed/files/Special%20Education%20Regulations.pdf Special Education Regulations: DE Administrative Code Notes: Mandatory screenings & assessments are for READING only Grades 2,3 DSTP required but NOT created to guide for instruction	# 3 Notes:	#1 1. Assessment should be in five dimensions

