

CHAPTER 15.1-22 KINDERGARTEN

15.1-22-01. Kindergarten - Establishment by board - Request by parent - Levy.

1. Upon its own motion, the board of a school district may establish a free public kindergarten.
2. If the board receives a written request to provide kindergarten from the parent of a student who will be enrolled in the kindergarten, the board shall either provide at least a half-day kindergarten program for the student or pay the tuition required for the student to attend at least a half-day kindergarten program in another school district.
3. The board of a school district that establishes a kindergarten under this section may levy a tax pursuant to subdivision p of subsection 1 of section 57-15-14.2.

15.1-22-02. Public kindergarten - Requirements. A school district operating a kindergarten:

1. May not employ an individual as a kindergarten teacher unless the individual is licensed to teach by the education standards and practices board or approved by the education standards and practices board.
2. Shall submit to the superintendent of public instruction and follow a developmentally appropriate curriculum.
3. Shall provide at least the equivalent of thirty full days of instruction, on a half-day or full-day basis, as determined by the school board.
4. Shall apply all municipal and state health, fire, and safety requirements to the kindergarten.
5. May not enroll a child who is not five years old before August first of the year of enrollment, unless the child will be five years old before December first and:
 - a. The child, by means of developmental and readiness screening instruments approved by the superintendent of public instruction and administered by the kindergarten operator, can demonstrate academic, social, and emotional readiness; or
 - b. The child has been enrolled in another approved kindergarten.

15.1-22-03. Nonpublic kindergarten - Requirements - Approval. Any person operating a nonpublic kindergarten may request approval of the kindergarten from the superintendent of public instruction. The superintendent shall approve a nonpublic kindergarten if it meets the requirements of section 15.1-22-02.

15.1-22-04. Kindergarten - Discontinuation. A school board by resolution may cease to provide a kindergarten.