



SUPPORTS



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J. Philippe Abraham, *Secretary-Treasurer*

NYSUT
800 Troy-Schenectady Road
Latham, N.Y. 12110-2455
(518) 213-6000, (800) 342-9810

Christopher J. Black, *Director of Legislation*

S.1624

Skoufis

Passed

A.7112

Benedetto

Third Reading Calendar #431

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS:

This legislation authorizes all school districts to make kindergarten compulsory for all five-year-olds who attend a public school, except for those children whose parents choose not to enroll them until the following September.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT:

All school districts should be required to offer kindergarten as part of their regular school program. Early education programs like full-day kindergarten play a major role in reducing the education gap, and are needed to support our new higher learning standards. It should also be noted that quality full-day kindergarten opportunities lead to better outcomes in the academic and social development of all children.

Investments in early-intervention programs like kindergarten are consistently proven to be cost effective. Quality full-day kindergarten opportunities lead to better outcomes in the academic and social development of children. The most recent research conducted by prominent universities, including Harvard University's Center on the Developing Child, confirms the positive and powerful influences of early education. Quality kindergarten programs often lay the groundwork for a lifetime of healthy learning and development.

The state should provide adequate and appropriate school aid funding to ensure that every school district in New York State can implement full day kindergarten without negatively impacting current programs and services. All school districts should be given the resources they need in order to reduce the education achievement gap, support our new higher learning standards and provide all students with the high quality education they deserve.

FOR THE ABOVE MENTIONED REASONS, NEW YORK STATE UNITED TEACHERS STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE PASSAGE OF THIS LEGISLATION.

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JP/AB/CB
Full Assy.
5/29/19