



## **Mandatory Full-Day Kindergarten**

**The State of Michigan does not require enrollment in kindergarten.** However, we are among the majority of states, that provide funds for both, half and full-day kindergarten. Children whose parents choose to hold their children out of kindergarten, miss a prime opportunity to develop skills, competencies and interest in a supportive classroom environment.

AFT Michigan believes it is in the best interest of all children to attend full-day kindergarten. **Full-day kindergarten will attract more children to public schools.** We will work toward legislation that mandates and fully funds full-day kindergarten for all children.

**Full-day kindergarten has been found to be particularly helpful for disadvantaged students.** Years of solid research have shown the high-quality, full-day kindergarten programs give children a much better chance to succeed in school, achieve greater gains in early language and literacy, and acquire higher cognitive skills.

**Senate Bill 162 (Clark-Coleman, D-3)** is currently before the Senate Education Committee.

**AFT MICHIGAN SUPPORTS MANDATORY FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN AND URGES LEGISLATORS TO VOTE “YES” ON SENATE BILL 162.**

### **Talking Points:**

- ▶ In Minneapolis, research shows that full-day kindergarten is helping to close the literacy gap between children from poor families and those from more affluent ones.
- ▶ In Philadelphia, a study of more than 17,000 students found that children attending full-day kindergarten dramatically out performed those in half-day programs.
- ▶ Studies show that children who are given additional opportunities to achieve and develop skills in letter identification, sight word recognition and socialization do better in the first grade and beyond.
- ▶ In 2006, it was estimated that statewide approximately **6,000 kindergarten-age children were not enrolled in school.**

- ▶ Recent reading research finds that children who get off to a poor start in reading rarely catch up.
- ▶ Early Intervention and Prevention programs have proven to deter childhood criminal activity.
- ▶ Learning disabilities detected at an early age are more easily and thoroughly resolved.

To be effective, full-day kindergarten must have qualified and certified teachers that vary learning and social activities, as well as, quiet time.

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