S.1624 (Skoufis) / A.7112 (Benedetto)

Relates to allowing boards of education of every school district to require minors who are five years of age to attend kindergarten

The New York State School Boards Association supports the above referenced legislation and urges its immediate enactment.

This bill would authorize all school districts to require kindergarten attendance for five-year olds unless such students’ parents or guardians decided to hold their children back for one year or enroll their children in a non-public school or home instruction. There are currently 8 school districts authorized to require kindergarten attendance. Over 45 percent of all students in the state attend one of those 8 school districts.

Studies show that students who attend kindergarten are better prepared for school. All school districts in New York State that offer elementary school also offer kindergarten. Kindergarten should be treated as what it is, a critical part of the k-12 continuum. This change in policy would reinforce the importance of kindergarten, where important skills are taught.

For these reasons, NYSSBA supports the above referenced legislation and urges its immediate enactment. For additional information, please contact NYSSBA Governmental Relations at 518-783-0200.