

Letter: Speak up for full-day kindergarten

Saturday, April 01, 2017

Speak up for full-day kindergarten

Young children in New Hampshire deserve to have a better chance for success in their lives.

Regrettably, our state has the second lowest number of full-day kindergarten programs in the nation. This feature of our famed Yankee frugality is “penny-wise and pound-foolish.”

Every dollar spent on expanding early education produces real future savings for our state in expenses for special education, child welfare, juvenile justice, adult welfare and unemployment.

Economists at the Federal Reserve Bank have asserted: “Research shows that human capital investments that start in early childhood can have especially impressive returns. . . . This is the most efficient means to produce the productivity of the workforce 15 to 20 years down the road.”

Most importantly, I believe all our children should attend full-day kindergarten because it is simply the right thing to do. High quality early education helps to develop the emotional skills young children need so that they learn to focus on the tasks they encounter and be successful as students and as productive citizens.

Finally, our state population is one of the oldest in the country. New Hampshire is in sore need of retaining and attracting young parents and their children. The New Hampshire Advantage of 30 years ago can be regained if we become known again as the best place in America to raise a family.

Let’s begin by supporting our citizens living here now with young children by standing up and speaking out on behalf of full-day kindergarten.

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