



4.9.2019

Members of the Colorado Legislature  
Colorado State Capitol

Honorable Legislators,

I am writing today in **support of HB-1262**, concerning *State Funding for Full-day Kindergarten*. HB-1262 will finally allow universal access to this important developmental and educational year for Colorado's students.

Governor Polis has made full-day kindergarten a major policy priority for his first year in office. I wish to commend the Governor's office and the legislature for listening to voices from those in the field about how this legislation should be structured to maximize the positive impact while doing all we can to avoid foreseeable pitfalls. I believe this legislation is thoughtfully crafted and is being put forth at the right time for Colorado.

Full-day kindergarten would be a major equity victory for students in Jefferson County Public Schools, the second largest district in Colorado. Either our schools currently charge fees to parents for full-day kindergarten, or (if their parents cannot pay) our schools use dollars from other grades and sources to make full-day kindergarten available.

This exacerbates gaps between the haves and the have-nots in our schools. Wealthier schools charge kindergarten tuition and get it, while those schools serving economically disadvantaged families cannibalize their resources to allow this opportunity for their families.

With state full funding of kindergarten, our district will pass those resources along directly to schools and end the practice of charging fees to parents. This will level the playing field for all our schools and bring a new source of revenue to our schools serving disadvantaged families. This would be a major positive change.

Thank you for your service to the great state of Colorado and for considering this important and meaningful legislation. It has my full support.

Kind Regards,

Jason E. Glass, Ed.D.  
Superintendent and Chief Learner

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