

## CO-SPONSORSHIP MEMORANDUM

To: All Legislators  
From: Senator Olsen and Representative Kitchens  
Date: August 22, 2019  
Re: Co-sponsorship of LRB-4056/1 relating to: counting pupils enrolled in four-year-old kindergarten.  
**DEADLINE: Thursday August 29, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.**

During the Blue Ribbon Commission on School Funding, the Committee heard testimony regarding the benefits of early childhood education. Early childhood education has been shown to be extremely beneficial for children between the ages of 3-5. Some of these benefits include improved social skills, better academic success later on in life, an improved attention span, as well as an enthusiasm for learning.

Under current law, districts may choose to operate a four-year-old kindergarten (4K) program if they would like to, but they are not required to do so. For those that do opt to offer a 4K program they are included in the equalization aid and revenue limit counts as a 0.5 pupil as long as the child attends for at least 437 hours.

This bill changes current law to allow 4K programs that require full day attendance by pupils for five days a week to be able to count these pupils as a whole one pupil rather than a half. This bill was drafted based on the recommendations made by the Blue Ribbon Commission on School Funding.

To co-sponsor this legislation please respond to this email or contact Jenna in Sen. Olsen's office at 6-0751 or Adam in Rep.Kitchens' office at 6-5350 by Thursday, August 29 at 5:00 p.m.

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### **Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau**

*This bill changes how a pupil enrolled in a four-year-old kindergarten is counted by a school district for purposes of state aid and revenue limits. Under current law, a pupil enrolled in a four-year-old kindergarten program is counted as 0.5 pupil unless the program provides at least 87.5 additional hours of outreach activities, in which case the pupil is counted as 0.6 pupil. Under the bill, if the four-year-old kindergarten program requires full-day attendance by pupils for five days a week, a pupil enrolled in the program is counted as one pupil. For further information see the state and local fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.*