

Montana State Legislature

Exhibit Number:

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EXHIBIT

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DATE

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HB

The Proceedings of the

Montana K-12 Public

School Renewal Commission

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Prepared by Dr. Dori Burns Nielson

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That extra time for student-teacher interaction can give disadvantaged children the school-readiness skills that their better-off peers learned in preschool and from their parents. Pennsylvania must join the states that see a lifetime benefit from full-day kindergarten for at-risk children. It is not the entire answer to academic underachievement, but it can be a key piece of the puzzle. With full-day kindergarten behind them, children can enter school ready to absorb the maximum educational benefits that the next 12 years will offer.

Or as another full-day kindergarten teacher said in praise of her program, "all students receive more time for educational purposes, not just those in a good day care."

Compiled by the Montana School Board Association (MTSBA)
by Tonia Bloom, Carmen McSpadden, Lance Melton, and Bob Vogel, 2003