

Full-Day Kindergarten: *Letter to the Editor*

National Education Association

Letter to the Editor

Note: Letters to the editor should be submitted to publications promptly in response to relevant stories on early education issues, education funding, state budget issues and priorities, teacher training, etc. Letters to the editor should be used to underline your message, not repeat the opposition's. Using facts, figures and examples from your own state or community will make the letter more compelling. Average length is 150 words, but always check with the publication for length limits and deadlines. The following is a template for a letter to the editor that could be tailored to include local issues and to respond to a specific article.

E X A M P L E L E T T E R

Full-Day Kindergarten Gives Students a Strong Start

[Response to hypothetical article that claims full-day kindergarten is too expensive and half-day programs are sufficient.]

To the Editor:

As parents, educators and state leaders, we have a duty to provide our children with the tools necessary to succeed in life. A large part of this responsibility entails helping them build a solid educational foundation.

Full-day kindergarten allows young students to develop strong academic, social and emotional skills. All children in full-day kindergarten classes demonstrate greater reading and mathematics gains than those in half-day classes. Full-day kindergarten also supports children at risk of school failure.

Viewing half-day kindergarten as a vehicle for saving money is shortsighted. Research shows that investments in quality early childhood programs generate returns of 3-to-1 or more by lowering grade retention and dropout rates later in children's school careers.

I am part of a statewide coalition that is working to pass full-day kindergarten legislation in [name of state]. We must support our students by providing resources that ensure quality full-day kindergarten programs are available to every child.

Your Name

Title (teacher, other)

School or Affiliation