



Early Learning Fellows Legislative Corner

January 2018

Prekindergarten Education



First year (2011-12) NCSL Early Learning Fellow **Representative Bob Behning** (R-Ind.) introduced [HB 1004](#) during the 2017 session. This bill, now enacted, allows the Division of Family Resources to award an early education matching grant to a provider that submits a specified expansion plan, and amends the eligibility of a child for the early education matching grant and pilot programs.

Behning has worked tirelessly during the last legislative session to provide additional prekindergarten to the state of Indiana. In discussing this most recent bill, Behning shared the following with NCSL, “Studies show students who participate in structured, high-quality pre-K programs have a jump start on their academic careers. In many cases, there can be an 18-month achievement gap among 10-year-olds who did not participate in some form of early childhood education. With Indiana’s 2017 legislation, we were able to expand our pre-K pilot program from five counties to 20, broadening access to almost 2,300 additional at-risk 4-year-olds, primarily in rural counties.” In closing, Behning said he is, “...looking forward to finding additional early childhood educational opportunities for Hoosier children.”

Suspension or Expulsion of Students



Fourth year (2015) NCSL Early Learning Fellow **Representative Raumesh Akbari** (D-Tenn.) sponsored [HB 872](#) which was enacted in 2017. This bill prohibits the suspension or expulsion from school of a prekindergarten through kindergarten student unless the student's behavior endangers the physical safety of other students or school personnel as determined by the director of schools, in which case the student may be suspended for three days or less. But only after the student has been provided an

NCSL Early Learning Fellows engage in non-legislative ways

Sixth year (2017) NCSL Early Learning Fellow Representative Tom Holmes (R-S.D.) aims to establish a privately funded, privately administered state-wide preschool program in South Dakota. He has already set up a 501(c)(3) and currently seeks donors.

Due to a tight budget and competing interests in South Dakota it is particularly unlikely that public funding could be secured for this purpose which is why Rep. Holmes has ambitiously started this work.

In a candid conversation Rep. Holmes shared, “The time to do this is now for as we all know, our children are our future, they should be our priority”.

Are you participating in other state-wide activities that you would like to share? Let us know so that we can include it in the next Legislative Corner. Email alison.may@ncsl.org

opportunity for the student's anger, fear, or anxiety to subside and the student's teacher or principal or both have had a conversation with the student concerning the behavior and the underlying issues that may have precipitated the behavior. Akbari told NCSL, "I wanted Tennessee to take a serious look at the use of exclusionary discipline and its impact on students and learning." Akbari continued by noting her hope, "...that LEAs will shift to restorative justice for all students, except in the most extreme cases and that the student learns conflict resolution skills, and they are able to stay in the classroom and continue to learn."

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