

MEMORANDUM OF CONCERN

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The Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy (SCAA) is concerned about this legislation, which would allow school districts to use unspent prekindergarten (Pre-K) dollars on approved K-2 early education programs. We believe that Pre-K funding should be earmarked for and spent on Pre-K programs for our youngest learners. Therefore, we do support the bill's provision to allow funds to be spent on full-day Pre-K and on activities "designed to improve student performance in Pre-K."

As the bill notes, "Unfortunately, some school districts have indicated that they...would not be able to use the [Pre-K] funding." While it is true that some districts did not use their allocated funds in 2007-08, research shows that these funds went unspent for very specific reasons, including the inability to use the funds for full-day Pre-K programs, transportation, and program start-up supports.

Therefore, instead of allowing districts to use unspent Pre-K funds for K-2 programs, the state should increase access to Pre-K by allowing districts to use the funds in ways appropriate to their individual needs, including:

- **Paying for full-day Pre-K programs, which are more beneficial than part-day programs**
- **Supporting collaborations with community-based organizations whose extended hours better meet the needs of working parents**
- **Paying for transportation to and from school- and community- based Pre-K programs, providing better access for working parents**

SCAA is concerned about the barriers to access, such as lack of transportation, that prevent more school districts from offering Pre-K programs and more parents from accessing Pre-K services. We hope that you will work with us to increase access by keeping Pre-K funds where they belong and by making those funds easier to use.

Sincerely,



President and CEO
SCAA

May 23, 2008