



New Hampshire Senate **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 4, 2021
CONTACT: Carole Alfano, 603.496.0412

Bill fixing Kindergarten funding passes Senate

CONCORD, NH -- A bill sponsored by Senate President Chuck Morse (R-Salem) and Senator Regina Birdsell (R-Hampstead) guaranteeing a much-needed technical fix to kindergarten funding in eight towns passed the Senate unanimously today.

The affected schools went from part-time to full-time kindergarten in 2020 but did not receive the appropriate amount of educational grant money from the state to cover their increased expenses. This was due to problems with the omnibus bill passed in the previous legislative session that authorized the Kindergarten spending but did not include an appropriation. Under SB82, the towns will share in \$1.9M from the state's Education Trust Fund.

"I am pleased that we were able to get passage of SB82 so quickly in the Senate," said Birdsell, the bill's prime sponsor. "This fix is truly needed for the towns that stepped up and went from part-time to full-time with their kindergarten programs, a move that is definitely beneficial to young learners."

Senator Morse added, "Making sure towns get the money they were promised when they made the commitment to start full-time kindergarten is the right thing to do. The pandemic has been tough on our school kids. We need to do everything we can to support them and their teachers during this difficult time."

The eight towns sharing the \$1.9M grant from the state's Education Trust Fund are Brookline, Chester, Derry, Epsom, Hooksett, Hudson, Salem and Windham.

###