



Renee Spence, Executive Director
9 Trotters Ridge Court, Catonsville, MD. 21228
410-925-2183
pssamed@gmail.com

BILL: House Bill 654
TITLE: Education – Statewide Kindergarten Assessment - Completion
DATE: February 14, 2017
POSITION: SUPPORT
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
CONTACT: Renee McGuirk Spence, Executive Director, PSSAM
Email: pssamed@gmail.com; Cell: 410-925-2183

House Bill 654 alters the date by which a statewide kindergarten assessment that has the purpose of measuring school readiness must be completed from October 1 to October 10.

PSSAM **supports** House Bill 654.

Local superintendents and school staff directly involved in giving the statewide Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) will welcome the extended period provided in House Bill 654. The change from October 1 to October 10 is significant in light of Governor Hogan’s Executive Order that Maryland public schools must open after Labor Day. Historically, for many years, twenty-three local school systems opened at least one week or more prior to Labor Day. Given the required post-Labor Day start time, this extension provides for a reasonable timeline for school-based professionals to conduct this very important assessment.

In addition, PSSAM is optimistic that the Maryland State Department of Education will be able to deliver the KRA results in a timely fashion. Since the KRA is used to measure school readiness, it is important that the results are received by schools within an appropriate timeline to inform instructional decisions.

Again, PSSAM fully **SUPPORTS** House Bill 654 and requests a **favorable** committee report.