



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

**Resolution**  
**In Support of Lowering the**  
**Compulsory School Age**

- Whereas*, Pennsylvania's compulsory school attendance age allows children to wait until age 8 to enroll in school; and
- Whereas*, The Commonwealth's compulsory school age was established in 1895 and does not reflect the needs of children or families in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; and
- Whereas*, Pennsylvania is just one of two states in the nation (the other being Washington state) that permit children to wait until age 8 to enter school; and
- Whereas*, Lowering the compulsory school age would bring Pennsylvania in line with the vast majority of other states; and
- Whereas*, Research suggests that an early start in formal schooling can help improve language and literacy skills, increase student achievement, enhance social and emotional skill development, and decrease the need for remediation in later years; now therefore be it
- Resolved*: That the members of the State Board of Education support lowering the Commonwealth's compulsory school age from age 8 to age 6.

Given under my hand and our seal  
this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May 2019

  
Karen Farmer White  
Chair

