STATE OF NEW YORK

6249

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 7, 2025

Introduced by Sens. SKOUFIS, C. RYAN, TEDISCO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to requiring a period of unstructured physical play for pupils enrolled in kindergarten and grades one through five

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 813-a to read as follows:

§ 813-a. School recess period; Scheduling. 1. As used in this section the term "recess" means a regularly scheduled, supervised, period in the school day for pupils to engage in unstructured physical activity held outside if reasonable.

2. Every day of the school year, each elementary school shall either:

(a) schedule a reasonable time of no less than thirty minutes for each full day pupil attending kindergarten through grade five to participate in recess; or

(b) schedule two reasonable times of no less than fifteen minutes each for each full day pupil attending kindergarten through grade five to participate in recess.

(c) such time shall not also be used as a scheduled time to consume lunch as required by section eight hundred thirteen of this article or as a scheduled time for physical education as outlined by section eight hundred three of this article.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall become a law and shall apply to school years commencing on and after the first of July next succeeding such effective date.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD09199-01-5