

**April 25, 2017**

**Official Statement on Full Day Kindergarten**

**Patrick Tufts, President and CEO of Granite United Way**

As the largest United Way in New Hampshire, dedicated to students learning at all levels, Granite United Way supports early, comprehensive and sustained pre-primary education.

Data consistently shows the positive outcomes that full day Kindergarten programs have for both students and teachers when compared with their half day peers. These include; increased academic gains in reading and math, stronger teacher-student relationships, and earlier identification of learning challenges. These outcomes are especially important for children in low-to-moderate income households, who are most at risk for falling behind and remaining behind academically. Full-day Kindergarten would provide New Hampshire children equal opportunity for lifelong benefits in employment, income, and healthy behaviors.

Granite United Way focuses on three impact areas for its investment decisions: Education, Financial Stability and Health. The outcomes of full day Kindergarten fall in line with Granite United Way's focus areas.

**For additional information on Granite United Way's position, please contact the office at 603.625.6939.**