



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 25 2022

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 1973 without my signature.

This bill would expand learning time for young students by requiring all elementary schools to offer at least one full-day kindergarten class by 2030-31, with phased-in implementation beginning in 2027-28.

I believe in the importance of expanded time for learning and play for our youngest students, especially given the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. That is why I worked with the Legislature to create the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program, which, by 2023-24, will provide nine hours of combined instruction and enrichment during the school year, and 30 non-school days (e.g. summer school, Saturdays or intersession programming, for all elementary students at high-needs schools and all high-needs students at all other elementary schools. The 2022 Budget Act included \$4 billion ongoing Proposition 98 General Fund for the Expanded Learning Opportunities Program, an historic investment in critical support for our kids.

I appreciate the author's intent and his advocacy for early education, however, this bill will create ongoing and one-time costs in the hundreds of millions of dollars to support school facilities and operational costs. With our state facing lower-than-expected revenues over the first few months of this fiscal year, it is important to remain disciplined when it comes to spending, particularly spending that is ongoing. We must prioritize existing obligations and priorities, including education, health care, public safety and safety-net programs.



The Legislature sent measures with potential costs of well over \$20 billion in one-time spending commitments and more than \$10 billion in ongoing commitments not accounted for in the state budget. Bills with significant fiscal impact, such as this measure, should be considered and accounted for in the annual budget process. For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gavin Newsom', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat illegible due to the cursive and overlapping strokes.

Gavin Newsom