



July 2, 2019

The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell
Chair, Assembly Education Committee
1020 N Street, Room 159
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SB 328 (Portantino) as amended May 8, 2019 – SUPPORT

Dear Chairman O'Donnell:

I write on behalf of the EdVoice Board of Directors to go on record in support of SB 328, which would establish prerequisite start times for middle and high schools for the purposes of counting average daily attendance from state apportionments, as specified.

A consensus of peer-reviewed education and medical research reveals early middle and high school start times are the primary contributor to adolescent sleep deprivation. And, the research causally links sleep deprivation directly to lower academic outcomes, lower health outcomes, and increased mental health issues and traffic accidents, especially for teens.

Addressing sleep deprivation as a state issue is a low-cost way for the state to achieve significant improvement in academic and health outcomes. By phasing in the requirement and staggering the prerequisite time for middle and high schools, SB 328 provides flexibility for local districts to accommodate home-to-school transportation and other scheduling needs.

Hundreds of thousands of teenagers are affected by sleep deprivation every school day, limiting their full potential to learn and making the hard work of teaching even more difficult. SB 328 is good for students, teachers, schools and California.

Accordingly, we urge you to support SB 328.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Lucia".

Bill Lucia
President

Cc: Senator Anthony Portantino, 25th Senate District
Members of the Assembly Education Committee