



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Edward A. Rath III

Senator Rath Introduces Legislation to Aid Schools in Getting Children Back in the Classroom

EDWARD A. RATH III March 19, 2021

| ISSUE: **CLASSROOMS, CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC; COVID-19, SCHOOL REOPENING**

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Albany, NY – Senator Rath has introduced legislation, S.5718, that would permit school districts to open to students for in-person instruction if the school can always maintain at least 3 feet between students.

“Getting our children safely back into schools is critical. For the past year children have had their daily routines completely upended. While virtual learning was necessary early in the

pandemic, schools have proven that they can safely bring children back. I continue to hear from parents who share their concerns of their children falling behind academically and greatly missing the social aspect of in-person learning. Now that teachers have been prioritized for vaccination, allowing the three feet of social distancing would be another tool in helping get children back in the classroom.

“While some counties and school districts have made spacing adjustments on their own, a unified approach is necessary. Additionally, it has been seen in other areas of the United States that bringing back students does not contribute to significant community spread. I have also met with the New York State American Academy of Pediatrics, who shared their support of this measure. I am hopeful that this bill will help get our children back into the classroom and allow schools to focus on educating our children,” said Senator Ed Rath.

The bill, S.5718, was introduced on March 16th and was referred to the Senate Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs for consideration.

RELATED LEGISLATION

2021-S5718

- Introduced
- - In Committee Assembly
 - In Committee Senate

- ○ On Floor Calendar Assembly
 - On Floor Calendar Senate

- ○ Passed Assembly
 - Passed Senate

- Delivered to Governor

- Signed By Governor

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Relates to the suspension of laws during a declared state of emergency; and permitting schools to open under certain circumstances

March 16, 2021

In Senate Committee [Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs](#)

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Do you support this bill?