

It's Time...

To recognize that our Education Support Professionals (ESPs) are a vital part of our education community. Bus drivers, custodians, cafeteria workers, secretaries, teaching assistants and para professionals work every day to make sure our students are successful. Their work is just one of the many reasons that New Jersey has the number one public school system in the United States.

It's Time...

To show them the respect they deserve. The legislature can do that by passing two bills: one that will prevent subcontracting in the middle of a contract and one that will provide due process.

It's Time...

For the legislature to do its job. **Both the subcontracting bill and the due process bill have been in the legislature since 1999!** They have had continuous bipartisan sponsorship and support.

The Assembly overwhelmingly passed these two bills in May, but they never made it through the Senate. Now, the bills must start the legislative process all over again. At this point, only one of the bills has been reintroduced for the new legislative session:

S-993/A-631: Legislation that provides limited due process for education support professionals, so that paraprofessionals, secretaries, bus drivers, and other ESPs cannot be fired for political reasons or disciplined without cause. As with teacher tenure, disputes of such issues would be resolved through binding arbitration.

It's Time...

For Senate President Steve Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin to show that they value and respect the contributions of ESPs to New Jersey's public schools.

Call them today and tell them to make sure S-993 and A-631 are posted for a vote.

- ✓ **Senate President Steve Sweeney** **856-251-9801**
- ✓ **Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin** **732-855-7441**

It's Time...

For lawmakers to show ESPs the respect they deserve. If they value public education, then they must value our Education Support Professionals.