

May 27, 2014

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Prioritize Early Learning in the 2014-15 Budget**

Dear Governor Brown:

Please make early learning a top priority in the budget. 2014 is the year to make a significant investment in early learning. In the coming weeks, California has a real and historic opportunity to provide every child, starting with those who need it most, with high-quality early education, setting them on a path to future success.

We urge you to:

1. over a multiyear period, ensure all low-income 4 year olds have access to high-quality pre-kindergarten;
2. building on the mixed-delivery system, provide adequate full-day, full-year pre-kindergarten for children from working families; and,
3. improve quality and expand access to child care, parent support and preventative health programs for the most vulnerable infants and toddlers and their families.

We can't keep denying the economics, the science or public opinion polls that support early learning:

- Research shows by the time they enter kindergarten, low-income children are already more than a year behind in language development and reading skills.
- This is a smart and prudent investment. Every \$1 invested in early learning yields \$7 in the form of lower grade retention, crime rates, special education placement and higher graduation rates and lifetime earnings.
- Quality matters. A report released this month found California is in the bottom five states in meeting preschool quality standards, meeting only 4 of 10 quality benchmarks for our state pre-k program. All of the preschool programs with significant gains in student achievement and return on investment have had high quality standards and adequate funding.
- Californians support investing in high-quality pre-kindergarten. 9 out of 10 Californians say attending pre-k is important to K-12 success, and 73% want California to include funding in the 2014-15 budget, according to recent polls.

Please make early childhood education a top priority in the 2014-15 state budget.

Cc: Executive Director of the State Board of Education Karen Stapf Walters  
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review: Subcommittee on Education Chair Marty Block  
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Signed by:

Advancement Project



Alpough Unified School District



Bay Area Council



Boys & Girls Club of Silicon Valley



California Fair Share



Children's Network of Solano County



Common Sense Media



County of Alameda



Early Edge California



East Bay Community Foundation



Family Engagement Institute



Fight Crime: Invest in Kids



First 5 Alameda



First 5 Fresno County



First 5 Monterey County



First 5 Napa County



First 5 Santa Clara County



First 5 San Mateo County



First 5 Santa Cruz



First 5 Solano



Fowler Unified School District



Fresno County Office of Education



Fresno Grade Level Reading Coalition



Fresno Unified School District



InnerCity Struggle



Jefferson Elem. School District



Kidango



Kids in Common



Kings Canyon Unified School District



League of Women Voters of California



Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce



LOS ANGELES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Los Angeles Urban League



Mission Readiness



Next Generation



Oak Grove Unified School District PIQE



ReadyNation/America's Edge



Santa Clara County Office of Education



Santa Clara County Office of Education

Silicon Valley Leadership Group



Solano County



St. Elizabeth's Day Home



United Ways of California



United Way Silicon Valley



Ventura County Office of Education

