Investing in Quality Early Education for California’s Children
Deborah Kong
President
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Overview

1. Why Quality Early Ed?
2. Governor’s Budget Proposal
3. The Opportunity
Why do kids need quality early experiences?

The years before kindergarten are a unique window of opportunity.
Providing Children with the Strong Foundation to Reach Their Full Potential

Children develop:

- Language, literacy and math skills
- Social/emotional and self-regulation skills needed to succeed
- Problem solving capacities

National Institute for Education Research
Preparing More Children for Kindergarten

- AIR finds children in TK have as much as a five-month learning advantage in literacy skills, math skills, and executive function when they start kindergarten.

- Yet more than 30,000 low-income 4 year olds and many more 3 year olds still do not have access to pre-k.
THERE IS A RETURN OF $8 FOR EVERY $1 SPENT ON EARLY EDUCATION.
The Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality cites quality preschool as one of the most effective ways to reduce the achievement gap.
What does quality look like?
Building Blocks of Quality

1. Comprehensive early learning standards and curricula
2. Appropriate child assessments
3. Professional knowledge and skill
4. Ongoing support for teachers
5. Support for diverse learners
6. Meaningful family engagement

7. Sufficient time

8. Appropriate class size and teacher-student ratio

9. Comprehensive program assessments

10. Quality Rating and Improvement Systems
Gov. Brown’s 2016-17 Early Education Budget Proposal
Governor’s Block Grant Proposal

Proposed Block Grant:

- Combines TK, State Preschool, quality improvement funding
- Concepts of Local Control Funding Formula
- Removes TK entitlement
- Quality standards not specified
Governor’s Block Grant Proposal: Many Questions Remain

- If ADA funding is severed from TK, what happens to children entitled to public school education?
- What quality standards will apply?
- What becomes of the state’s commitment to provide preschool for all low-income 4-year-olds?
- What about community-based preschool providers?
Department of Finance Stakeholder Process: Next Meeting

Monday, March 14, 2016
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Fresno County Office of Education
Conference Room 101T
1111 Van Ness Avenue
Fresno, CA 93721
http://fresno.k12oms.org/1139-110500
The Opportunity
Thank You!

Deborah Kong
President
dkong@earlyedgecalifornia.org

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