

## **Assembly Bill 172 (Chan, D-Oakland)**

### **Assembly Bill 172 marks an important first step toward providing preschool to the California children who need it most.**

By enacting this new law, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and the California Legislature have given an estimated 12,000 additional California 4-year-olds the opportunity to attend the State Preschool Program each year. In the months ahead, Preschool California and its partners will be encouraging lawmakers to increase not just access to preschool, but the quality of the programs provided. *Our goal is to make sure that California puts good teachers where they can do the most good.*

#### **What does AB 172 do?**

Authored by Assemblywoman Wilma Chan (D-Oakland), AB 172 implements Governor Schwarzenegger's proposal to invest an additional \$50 million to increase preschool enrollment in programs located in the attendance areas surrounding California's lowest performing elementary schools. It will also fund a new family literacy component designed to help parents help their children succeed in preschool and beyond. The governor signed the bill on September 7, 2006 at a Los Angeles preschool.

Of the \$50 million:

- \$45 million is targeted to increase preschool access; and
- \$5 million is divided to provide each preschool classroom with \$2,500 for any of the following: compensation and support costs for program coordinators, staff development, family literacy services, and instructional materials.

In addition to the \$50 million in preschool program expansion, the 2006-07 state budget includes \$50 million dollars in one-time funds for preschool facilities.

#### **Which preschool programs are eligible to receive AB 172 funding?**

Preschool programs located within the attendance areas of elementary schools that scored in the lowest three deciles on the Academic Performance Index (API) will be eligible to apply for a contract with the California Department of Education as part of the State Preschool Program. Preference will be given to underserved areas.

#### **Which children are eligible to attend preschool programs funded by AB 172?**

In low-decile school areas, enrollment priority will first be given to families who are income-eligible under State Preschool Program guidelines. To qualify for the state preschool program, a family of four must earn no more than a gross monthly income of \$4,031. If space is still available after income-eligible children are enrolled, the bill allows up to 20% of the preschool students served to come from families with income above the eligibility limit.

#### **When will AB 172 funds be available to preschool contractors?**

The California Department of Education (CDE) expects to release a request for applications (RFA) to interested preschool contractors in October 2006. CDE estimates that contractors will be selected and funded in January 2007. This timeline is an estimate and is subject to change.

#### **When will parents be able to enroll their 4-year-olds in these newly funded preschool spaces?**

CDE expects parents will be able to enroll their 4-year-olds in the additional preschool spaces sometime after January 2007 when preschool contractors are selected.

To keep up-to-speed with the implementation of AB 172 in your local community, please direct all questions and inquiries to Holly Miller at the California Department of Education. She can be reached at (916) 323-7195.