

For more information: Catherine Atkin, (510) 821-1441, [catkin@preschoolcalifornia.org](mailto:catkin@preschoolcalifornia.org)  
Lisa Rothbard, (510) 271-0075 x303, [lrothbard@preschoolcalifornia.org](mailto:lrothbard@preschoolcalifornia.org)

>>>PRESS STATEMENT<<<

**Governor's May Revision Includes Additional \$50 Million for Preschool**

**Monday, May 14, 2007, SACRAMENTO, CA** – In his 2007-08 May Budget Revision, Governor Schwarzenegger proposes a \$50 million increase in California's preschool programs for the children who need it most. This investment is in addition to last year's \$50 million in new funds that Governor Schwarzenegger and the Legislature approved for preschool with the passage of Assembly Bill 172.

Preschool California President Catherine Atkin issues the following statement:

“Governor Schwarzenegger has once again shown his leadership on behalf of California's children by investing in preschool. In the Governor's January 2007 State of the State address, he said, ‘That small child with the sticky hands starting the first day of kindergarten is the foundation of California's economic power and leadership.’ We couldn't agree more. A vast body of evidence consistently shows us that, when done right, preschool is a proven investment in school success.”

“Effective preschool is so important because it provides eager young learners with the early academic and social skills that prepare them for later learning. When done right, effective preschool, taught by well-trained and well-supported teachers, gets kids ready to learn, ready to read, and ready to do their best in school. We look forward to working with both the Governor and legislative leaders including Speaker Nuñez, a great preschool champion, to expand pre-kindergarten opportunities for California's children. It's time to invest in school success. It's time to invest in preschool.”

*Preschool California is a broad-based, multi-year, advocacy campaign to make effective preschool programs available to all of California's 4-year-olds, starting with the children who need it the most. <http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org>.*

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