



Preschool  
California

*Kids Can't Wait to Learn™*

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## >>>PRESS STATEMENT<<<

### **Senate and Assembly Pass \$50 Million Bill for Preschool**

**Oakland, CA, Aug. 31, 2006** - Preschool California President Catherine Atkin issued the following statement as AB 172 (Chan) heads to the governor for his signature after passing out of both the Senate and Assembly with overwhelming support:

“The passage of AB 172 (Chan) yesterday out of both houses of the Legislature is a victory for California’s at-risk children, their families, and their struggling schools. This first step is one of many that will be necessary to provide quality voluntary preschool to the children who need it most. Preschool California looks forward to working with the governor and the Legislature in the months and years to come to assure the quality of instruction provided in state-funded preschool classrooms prepares California’s kids to do their best in school.”

AB 172 implements the governor’s proposal to invest \$50 million dollars to provide for increased preschool enrollment in programs located in the attendance areas of elementary schools in deciles 1-3 on the Academic Performance Index. It will also fund an important new family literacy component designed to teach parents the skills needed to help their children succeed in preschool and beyond. In addition to the \$50 million in preschool program expansion, \$50 million dollars in one-time funds for preschool facilities was included in the final budget for fiscal year 2006-2007.

*Preschool California is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization working to achieve quality preschool opportunity for all 4-year-olds in California. [www.preschoolcalifornia.org](http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org).*

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