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>>>PRESS STATEMENT<<<

## **Innovative New Pilot Will Allow More Children to Enter Kindergarten Ready to Succeed**

**Oakland, CA, Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2010** – Catherine Atkin, president of Preschool California, issued the following statement regarding Los Angeles Unified School District's new transition kindergarten pilot program, beginning next school year. The transition kindergarten program is intended to boost the academic success of the district's youngest kindergarteners by providing them with a year of preparation before entering kindergarten. (For more information, read LAUSD's press release about the pilot:

[http://notebook.lausd.net/pls/ptl/docs/PAGE/CA\\_LAUSD/FLDR\\_LAUSD\\_NEWS/FLDR\\_PRESS\\_RELEASES/KINDERGARTEN10.PDF](http://notebook.lausd.net/pls/ptl/docs/PAGE/CA_LAUSD/FLDR_LAUSD_NEWS/FLDR_PRESS_RELEASES/KINDERGARTEN10.PDF))

*"Preschool California applauds Los Angeles Unified School District's leadership in ensuring that 4-year-olds currently eligible for kindergarten – many who have not had access to high-quality preschool programs – get the kind of high-quality early learning experiences they need to be ready for success in school. This innovative reform will give children the critical social, early literacy and pre-math skills they need to succeed in school and in life.*

*By providing building blocks for future success, and giving kids a kindergarten readiness year, we can narrow the school readiness gap before it becomes an achievement gap."*

*Preschool California is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to increase access to high-quality preschool for all of California's children, starting with those who need it most.*

<http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org>.