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>>>PRESS STATEMENT<<<

Early Learning Programs Included in LAUSD Public School Choice Applications

Oakland, CA, Thursday, Feb. 25, 2010 – Catherine Atkin, president of Preschool California, issued the following statement regarding this week's vote by the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education approving Public School Choice applicants. The majority of elementary school applicants included plans to operate early learning programs in their proposals. Public School Choice, approved last year by the LAUSD board, is aimed at improving education, and allows nonprofit groups, local districts, charter schools and collaborative teams of educators to operate existing schools and new schools in the District. (For more information, read LAUSD's press release about the Public School Choice vote:

http://notebook.lausd.net/pls/ptl/docs/PAGE/CA_LAUSD/FLDR_LAUSD_NEWS/FLDR_ANNOUNCEMENTS_PARENTS_GUARDIAN/PUBLICSCHOOLCHOICE%20SELECTIONS%20022310%20FINAL.PDF)

“Preschool California is very happy to see early learning included in this innovative education reform effort, and we look forward to seeing these early childhood education programs serve our children.

“We know that children who start out behind tend to stay behind. High-quality early learning gives our children a strong early start, building the early literacy and social skills they need to succeed in school. By increasing access to early childhood education programs in Los Angeles, we can help eliminate the achievement gap before kids enter kindergarten classrooms.”

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>.