

April 22, 2008

Dear Preschool Supporter:

I'm pleased to welcome you to Pre-K Advocacy Day! Today, supporters from across the state are in Sacramento to celebrate the preschool movement and tell their legislators why preschool programs matter in their communities. It is thanks to your hard work, dedication and support that we have such strong momentum to carry us through this year and beyond.

Cities and towns from San Ysidro to Sacramento have made tremendous investments to expand effective pre-k, creating models of what works, driving demand in their communities and broadening the agenda to include advocacy for the public financing needed to sustain and expand access to high-quality preschool for the kids who need it most.

Most important, thanks in large part to your efforts, we have finally moved from the "if preschool" to the "when preschool" phase in the minds of state leaders. This year both the P-16 Council and the Governor's Committee on Education Excellence recommended providing all California children with access to a high-quality pre-kindergarten program, starting with those who need it most. At the same time, legislators have become preschool champions, authoring pre-k bills and visiting preschool classrooms to see what high-quality programs look like. They know that getting kids ready to learn before kindergarten must be a key part of California's effort to reform its education system and narrow the achievement gap.

Today you will have a chance to find out what's happening on pre-k in Sacramento, learn advocacy tips on how to make your voice heard and network with other pre-k advocates. During the legislative visits, your legislators will hear from you about preschool expansion efforts in their districts and the importance of high-quality preschool for their communities.

This truly promises to be an exciting year, with so much we can all do both at home and in Sacramento. As pre-k efforts intensify, we hope you will continue to stay informed and involved. Thank you for bringing your voice to Sacramento and making Pre-K Advocacy Day a success!

Sincerely,



Catherine Atkin, President
Preschool California