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January 10, 2012

Members of the California State Legislature
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: OPPOSE Governor Brown's proposal to kick 125,000 kindergarteners out of the public school system.

Dear Members of the California State Legislature:

On behalf of InnerCity Struggle, I am writing to express our strong **opposition** to Governor Brown's proposal to eliminate transitional kindergarten and kick 125,000 kindergarteners out of the public school system. This is the largest number of children ever to be denied access to public education in the nation's history, and research shows that these children will be more likely to fall behind. We urge the Legislature to reject this proposal.

Denying 125,000 children access to public school is a lose-lose-lose-lose for California's children, parents, teachers and schools. Without school readiness programs like transitional kindergarten, these children will be more likely to be placed in special education, retained in later grades and drop out of high school. Working parents will have to scramble to find care for children who otherwise would have been in school, a particularly difficult struggle for low-income families who cannot afford the high cost of private childcare or preschool.

These cuts also mean that 5,000 teachers will lose their jobs and our already struggling schools will permanently lose \$1 billion in ADA funding, including \$100 million of special education funding. The Legislature must let Governor Brown know that these cuts are unacceptable.

We urge the Legislature to **reject** these proposals.

Sincerely,

Maria Brenes, EdM
Executive Director

cc:

Governor Jerry Brown
Julie Henderson, Senior Advisor for Policy, Office of the Governor
Sue Burr, Executive Director, State Board of Education
Dr. Michael Kirst, President, State Board of Education