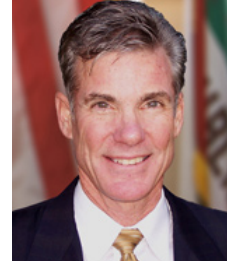




# Public Leaders Agree: Early Learning is an Investment in Our Future

"[Preschool] is one of the best investments we could make. It'll greatly reduce the dropout rate, help us close the achievement gap and increase public safety. The young people who have quality preschool are not the crime statistics. They get into kindergarten ready to learn." - **State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson**



"Preschool is effective on so many levels. It cuts crime by giving kids the skills they need to succeed in school so they stay out of trouble. I know my jails would be a lot less crowded if more adult offenders had access to effective preschool programs as kids."

- **Lee Baca, Los Angeles County Sheriff**

"Working together, we can ensure more children have the opportunity to receive the strong start early childhood education provides. If we want our graduates to meet the demands of the global economy, we must support the next generation of innovators coming into our public education system." - **Charles Weis, ACSA President and Santa Clara County Superintendent**



"I'm absolutely passionate about preschool, and our focus on three- and four-year-olds, and I'm really trying to get the business community excited about that, because I do think I look for a great investment. The upfront costs are relatively low, but the output, the return on that investment, is huge. We have three- and four-year-olds entering kindergarten unprepared to be able to read, to be able to socialize in their environment, and so I believe it's absolutely critical for us to get to these kids at an early age and work on these deficiencies."  
- **Ken McNeely, President of AT&T California**



"Economic analyses demonstrate that investing in high-quality pre-kindergarten saves states and school districts money that otherwise would be spent on repeating grades and remedial education, or, in the longer term, on welfare payments and prisons. This is the kind of reform we should embrace... thoroughly researched strategies proven to improve student achievement that are popular in the states, widely supported and fiscally smart." - **Rep. Judy Chu, (D-CA)**

"More than half a million children are born every year in California. In each life is an unlimited amount of potential - to grow-up healthy, to do well in school and to succeed. That's why we believe in tapping into that potential during a child's earliest years and working to ensure that all children are given the opportunity to thrive."  
- **Kris Perry, Executive Director, First 5 California**



For more information, visit [www.preschoolcalifornia.org](http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org)



414 13th Street, Suite 500  
Oakland, CA 94612  
(510) 271-0075 T  
(510) 271-0707 F

# Early Learning Support from National Leaders



"I'm a lifelong political conservative, and I believe that government should intervene on a limited and targeted basis. Early education is not conservative common sense or liberal common sense—it's just plain common sense. Reaching the most at-risk kids helps increase graduation rates and cut crime, so early education is a matter of national security." - **Major General James W. Comstock**



"This is a unique moment in time when early learning...has come into its own and is recognized as the first and most critical stage in human development...We have a special opportunity to build a bigger, better coordinated system of early care and education. It is time to transform early learning from a system of uneven quality and access into a system that truly and consistently prepares children for success in school and in life." — **Secretary of Education Arne Duncan**



"Too many children arrive at kindergarten already behind. What's worse, far too many children keep falling farther behind — and never catch up...Investing in the early years — beginning at birth and even before, and focusing first on those children and families who face the greatest risks — is a responsible way to shift the odds so more children will grow up eager to learn, ready for school and inspired with hope." - **Susie Buffett, Chair, Buffett Early Childhood Fund**



"If I were advising the Republican nominee... I'd ask him to call for a new human capital revolution... The second group of policies would involve early-childhood education... Preschool should be radically expanded and accountability programs put in place." - **David Brooks, New York Times Columnist**

"Great strides have been made in understanding how children's brains are shaped and developed, how positive behaviors can be encouraged, and how investments in early childhood create success in later years." - **Minority Leader Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)**



"The best way to improve the American workforce of the 21st century is to invest in early education, to ensure that even the most disadvantaged children have the opportunity to succeed alongside their more advantaged peers." - **James J. Heckman, Henry Schultz**



**Distinguished Service Professor of University of Chicago and Nobel Prize winner in Economics**



"We are looking at ways we can have more impact. One front is early childhood education, Head Start programs, preschool programs. We need to facilitate access and opportunity for the youngest of our youth, especially if we keep in mind that a lot of our kids are English language learners." — **Janet Murguia, President & CEO, National Council of La Raza**

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