

January 18, 2012

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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 Families In Schools, I am writing to express our strong **opposition** to Governor Brown's proposal to eliminate transitional kindergarten, which would result in the removal 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 their peers in academic gains. We urge the Legislature to reject this proposal.

Denying 125,000 children access to public school is a detriment 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.

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,



Oscar E. Cruz  
President & CEO  
Families In Schools

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