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January 20, 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 the Sacramento City Unified School District, I am writing to express our very strong opposition to Governor Brown's proposal to eliminate transitional kindergarten. Denying 125,000 of our state's earliest school children access to public education is absolutely the wrong direction for our State. Research shows that denying children early education opportunities produces more students that are less likely to be successful in school and later on in life.

Eliminating Transition Kindergarten from our state is a great loss for our children, parents, teachers, and schools. Without transitional kindergarten more students would continue to be retained, placed in special education classes, and dropped from our schools. Parents would have to find other care for their children who previously would be placed in school. This is another struggle for working families who cannot afford private preschool or daycare.

The Governor's proposed cuts also means lost jobs for teachers. The estimated total of teacher cuts could reach 5,000. Who would support a bill that adds to more unemployment in our state? With the loss of students, estimated to be 125,000, comes loss of ADA for our school districts. The financial set back is a permanent \$1 billion for lost student attendance and \$100 million of special education funding.

The legislature must let our Governor know that these cuts are another terrible obstacle for our schools. We strongly urge the legislature to reject these proposals.

Sincerely,

 John Conway
 Early Kinder Coordinator
 Sacramento City Unified School District

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