



Last January, children across Massachusetts decorated and sent thousands of beautiful stars to Governor Patrick urging him to prioritize investments in young children and families in the state budget. The state's continuing fiscal crisis promises to make the budget process for fiscal year 2013 particularly challenging.

Please join **Rising Stars** by inviting the children in your program to decorate stars to represent them. Send the decorated stars to Governor Patrick along with a message about the importance of investing in our "rising stars" by ensuring they have access to high-quality early education and become proficient readers by the end of third grade.

Step 1:

Have your students decorate paper stars.

This is your chance to be creative! Use crayons, markers, paint, glitter, tin foil, feathers and other materials. [Click here for a star template.](#) Please cut out the stars.

Step 2:

Let the governor know who decorated the star.

Include the child's name, name of your program, and city or town on the message sheet. [Click here](#) for a copy. Cut out each message and glue one on the back of each star.

Step 3:

Mail the package of stars to:

Governor Deval Patrick
State House, Room 360
Boston, MA 02133

Be sure to include all the stars and photos of the children decorating them.
Please send the package by Wednesday, January 18, 2012 (the earlier the better!)

Step 4:

Get families involved!

Ask families to complete the support letters to the Legislature. Each family should complete two letters, one for their state senator and one for their state representative. [Click here](#) for the letters and make copies. Do not worry about filling out the elected officials' names, we can help with that. See step 5 for further details.

Step 5:

Get staff involved!

Ask the early educators, administrators, and staff at your program to complete the early educators support letters. [Click here for a copy.](#)

Step 6:

Let us know you participated! And send us the support letters!

Return your participation form along with family and early educator support letters to Strategies for Children. The mailing information is included on the participation form. [Click here to complete the participation form.](#)

Thank you!