



# The Early Education for All (EEA) Campaign FY08 Budget Recommendations

**Invest in Early Education: Ensure All Children Have The Start They Deserve.**

In order to achieve the promise of universal, high-quality early education, the Early Education for All Campaign recommends new investments in the FY08 budget to:

- Begin the implementation of the Massachusetts Universal Pre-Kindergarten (MA UPK) Program, starting with low-income children;
- Strengthen the current foundation of early education and care programs;
- Improve professional development opportunities for early educators; and
- Expand access to full-day public school kindergarten.

## **FY08 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**3000- 5075 Massachusetts Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program - \$100 million** - For a grant program to improve the quality of and expand access to pre-kindergarten programs for children age 2 years and 9 months to kindergarten eligibility, to be delivered through a mixed system of public and private providers. Not more than \$5,000,000 or 5% of the total amount allocated for this item, whichever is less, shall be used by the Department of Early Education and Care for program administration and related services. This first investment of \$100 million will begin implementation of MA UPK, starting with low-income children, with the goal of phasing in the full estimated cost of \$600 million over five years.

**7070-0065 Early Educators Scholarship Program - \$6 million (\$3 million increase)** - To build upon the tremendous success of the program. Research shows that teachers' education, training and compensation levels are main determinants of early education program quality, which has a direct and positive effect on children's healthy development.

**7030-1002 Kindergarten Expansion Grants - \$39.5 million (\$12.5 million increase)** - To support Governor Patrick's proposed increase to the Kindergarten Expansion Grants program under House 1 in order to transition 800 of the existing 1500 half-day kindergarten classrooms to full-day classrooms.

**3000-6000 Quality Expenditures - \$4,544,132 (level funding) with \$250,000 earmark for Quality Rating System** - For early education and care quality expenditures, including \$250,000 to be used for a plan to implement a Quality Rating System for early education and care programs participating in MA UPK.

**3000-6050 Professional Development - \$4 million (\$2.5 million increase)** - For professional development grants for early education and care providers, including a directive to the Department of Early Education and Care to align professional development with core competencies and MA UPK program standards, and to support early educators in obtaining higher education degrees through programs such as Building Careers.

**3000-2000 Resource and Referral Agencies - \$12.5 million (\$1 million increase)** - For the regional administration of early education and care programs and services and related activities.

**3000-5000 Head Start - \$9.5 million (\$1 million increase)** - For grants to Head Start programs: provided, that funds from this item may be expended on Early Head Start programs.

**1599-0042 Subsidized Provider Rate Reserve - \$16 million** - For a reserve to further improve the quality, infrastructure and capacity of the early education and care system through increased reimbursement rates distributed by an equal percentage to subsidized providers, including \$6 million to further increase infant and toddler reimbursement rates.

**7066-0000 Board of Higher Education - \$2,853,819 (\$100,000 increase) with \$100,000 earmark for Higher Education Early Childhood Education Capacity Building** - For the Board of Higher Education to develop a plan, based on the findings of two important studies, to strengthen the capacity of two- and four-year public and private institutions of higher education to better prepare early educators for excellence.

**Higher Education Early Childhood Education Capacity Building Trust Fund - \$1 million** - For grants to be administered by the Board of Higher Education for two- and four-year public and private institutions of higher education to strengthen their capacity to better prepare early educators for excellence.

### **Early Education: An Investment with Extraordinary Returns.**

#### **It's Good for Children**

Children who participate in high-quality early education programs:

- Are 40% less likely to repeat a grade, 30% more likely to graduate from high school and more than twice as likely to go to college;
- Are better prepared for kindergarten, especially in the areas of pre-reading, pre-math and social skills;
- Develop better language skills, score higher on school readiness tests and have fewer behavioral problems once they enter school;
- As adults, have higher median annual earnings and are more likely to be homeowners.

#### **It's Good for Families**

- 61% of Massachusetts children under the age of six have all parents in the labor force. Access to high-quality, reliable, affordable early education and care is essential for families.

#### **It's Good for the Economy**

- Investments in high-quality early education can yield an estimated 16% for every dollar invested.
- When children participate in high-quality programs, their families' increased ability to be employed results in higher household incomes, which in turn lead to benefits for the entire community.
- Early education helps ensure an adequate supply of productive and capable workers.

#### **About the EEA Campaign**

The Early Education for All Campaign is a coalition of leaders from business, early childhood, labor, religion, health care, education and philanthropy working in partnership with parents, grassroots leaders, and state policymakers to ensure:

- That every child has access to a high-quality pre-kindergarten education, which meets professionally accepted standards, is staffed by well-trained early educators, and is delivered through a mix of public and private programs;
- The creation of a state system to improve the training, education, and compensation of the early childhood and school-age workforce; and
- Access to high-quality, full school-day public kindergarten for all families who desire it.

For more information, please contact Tom Weber, Legislative/ Policy Director, at 617-330-7389 or [tweber@earlyeducationforall.org](mailto:tweber@earlyeducationforall.org).