Statement on Governor Patrick’s FY12 Budget

The following statement is from Amy O’Leary, director of Early Education for All, a campaign of Strategies for Children:

January 26, 2011 -- We applaud Governor Patrick for his ongoing commitment, in this difficult climate, to high-quality early education and care and closing the achievement gap. His fiscal 2012 budget builds on the progress we have made by, among other things, protecting investments in early education, full-day kindergarten, scholarships for early educators, and literacy. The governor’s FY12 budget also recognizes the important role that early literacy and the Department of Early Education and Care’s newly adopted Quality Rating and Improvement System play in closing the achievement gap. The proposed budget dovetails well with “An Act Relative to Third Grade Reading Proficiency” filed last week by Representative Marty Walz and Senator Katherine Clark. The legislation is designed to further advance the work being done in Massachusetts to address language and literacy development for children from birth to third grade. We look forward to continuing to work with the governor and Legislature to ensure that children in Massachusetts have access to high-quality early education and become proficient readers by the end of third grade, a benchmark that strongly predicts their chances of success in school and beyond.

Early Education for All, a campaign of Strategies for Children, works to ensure that children in Massachusetts have access to high-quality early education and become proficient readers by the end of third grade. EEA is a broad-based coalition of leaders from business, early childhood, labor, religion, health care, education and philanthropy allied with parents, grassroots leaders and policymakers on behalf of children and families. Read our blog, Eye on Early Education. Find us on Facebook.