MEDIA ADVISORY: March 15, 2013
Contact:
Irene Sege, 617-330-7386 (office), 617-803-3281 (cell), isege@strategiesforchildren.org
Amy O’Leary, 617-330-7384 (office), 617-642-4419 (cell), aoleary@earlyeducationforall.org

State House Briefing: How New Jersey Expanded Early Education and Narrowed the Achievement Gap

With growing interest in high-quality early education in Massachusetts and around the country, the time is ripe to examine innovative models in other states. On March 20, New Jersey leaders will brief legislators on how that state established preschool for 3- and 4-year-old children in districts with large numbers of low-income families. As the result of a landmark education equity case, Abbott v. Burke, funding in these districts flows through the public schools to public school pre-kindergartens, community-based programs and Head Start. All teachers, no matter the setting, are certified, have expertise in early childhood, are paid public school salaries and utilize developmentally appropriate curriculum aligned with learning standards. Class sizes are small. The result has been a narrowing of the achievement gap.

The media is invited to cover the briefing, which is sponsored Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz and Representative Alice Peisch, co-chairs of the Legislature’s Joint Committee on Education, and by Early Education for All, a campaign of Strategies for Children. The New Jersey leaders will also be available for media questions after the event.

Briefing: Lessons from New Jersey on bringing high-quality early education to scale
Presenters
David Sciarra, executive director, Education Law Center, Newark, New Jersey
Cynthia Rice, senior policy analyst, Advocates for Children of New Jersey, Newark, New Jersey

Wednesday, March 20, 11 a.m. to noon (Press availability at noon)
Room 350, State House, Boston

Strategies for Children and its signature Early Education for All Campaign work to ensure that children in Massachusetts have access to high-quality early education and become proficient readers by the end of third grade. Read our Eye on Early Education blog. Find us on Facebook. Follow us on Twitter. View us on YouTube.