Statement on the Massachusetts FY14 State Budget

Carolyn Lyons, President and Chief Executive Officer of Strategies for Children, issued the following statement on the FY14 Massachusetts state budget:

“The FY14 budget approved by the legislature today includes more than $26.5 million in new funding for early education and care. This increased state investment is a step in the right direction. New funding includes $15 million to decrease the waitlist for early education and care for children from income eligible families, and $11.5 million to provide a modest increase in salaries for early educators. Additionally, the legislature maintained or increased funding for universal pre-kindergarten, high-quality full-day kindergarten, scholarships for early childhood educators, Head Start, services for infants and parents, and the Department of Early Education and Care.

We are encouraged that the Legislature is acting on decades of research which shows that investing in early education produces positive results for individual children and society, while being one of the most cost-effective uses of the public dollar. Through the funding and the creation of several new line items and commissions in its FY14 budget, the legislature has moved us closer to a system that provides access to high-quality early education for all the children of the Commonwealth.”

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.