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Contact: Titus DosRemedios, Director of Research and Policy
617-330-7387 (office), 401-523-6288 (cell), tdosremedios@earlyeducationforall.org

Strategies for Children Applauds Governor Patrick for Proposed New Investments in High-Quality Early Education

STATEMENT OF CAROLYN LYONS, PRESIDENT/CEO, STRATEGIES FOR CHILDREN
Governor Patrick’s Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Proposal

“Strategies for Children applauds Governor Patrick’s fiscal year 2015 budget proposal, in which he increases investments in high-quality early education to close the achievement gap. Today in Massachusetts, too many children show up for kindergarten already behind, and too many will never catch up. Research clearly demonstrates the lasting short- and long-term positive impact of high-quality early education – on everything from reduced grade retention and special needs placements to improved school readiness, high school graduation, college attendance, adult earnings and health.

We will not close the commonwealth’s longstanding achievement gaps unless we target resources to early learning. Governor Patrick’s budget recognizes this. The plan proposes new investments to ensure access to high-quality programs, maintains funding for access to existing programs, and recommends new strategic investments in quality early learning programs. It builds off progress made in fiscal year 2014 to reduce the wait list for preschool programs.

Through his proposal, Governor Patrick joins policymakers across the nation who are acting upon the evidence that learning begins at birth, and to give children a chance to succeed, we must invest in high-quality early education. We applaud the governor for his leadership and look forward to working with the Legislature to support these critical initiatives to close the achievement gap and ensure all of our children have a chance to succeed in school and in life.”

http://www.strategiesforchildren.org/

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