

MARK TAKANO  
41ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,  
AND TECHNOLOGY



Congress of the United States  
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September 29, 2014

Edmond G. Brown Jr., Governor, State of California  
Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Michael Kirst, President, State Board of Education  
Early Education and Support Division  
1430 N Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Governor Brown, Superintendent Torlakson, and Board President Kirst:

I am writing to express my strong support of California's application for federal Preschool Expansion Grant funds. The innovative approach presented in California's proposal, which takes local needs and capacities as a starting point for building strong statewide systems, will enable California to build upon and strengthen the excellent work that is already taking place in communities across the state. The final result will be a sustainable statewide network, grounded in local resources and supported by the California Department of Education and collaborative partner First 5 California. Primary elements of the proposed Preschool Expansion initiative include:

- Development and expansion of successful local institutions and programs to increase access and improve outcomes for children and families with a special focus on students with disabilities;
- Voluntary alignment of existing local efforts into a statewide network supported by services and technical assistance provided by the CDE and its primary collaborative partner F5CA, along with other statewide partners;
- Investments that build capacity and sustainable infrastructure, particularly at the local level;
- Development of sustainable, high-quality programs that are able to maximize the benefits of Preschool Expansion funding without creating future pressure on the State's budget; and
- Integration of recent innovations involving similar principles, especially the creation and development of California's innovative Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS), the California Quality Continuum Framework.

The California Legislature's and the Governor's recent approval of \$250 million in new early education investments in the 2014-15 state budget reflects the significant commitment the state is making to our youngest learners. With California representing 13 percent of the nation's children and 22 percent of California's children living in poverty, the state is critical for realizing the vision mapped out by the Preschool Expansion Grants program. California's proposal for Preschool Expansion represents an excellent opportunity for our state and nation to take a major step forward towards educational excellence for all. Your full and fair consideration of this request with current laws, rules, regulations and agency policy will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Takano".

Mark Takano  
Member of Congress