

Summary of Governor's SFY 08 and 09 Budget Proposals re Early Education

New funds presented in Governor M. Jodi Rell's Biennial Budget for State Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 related to improving the school readiness of Connecticut's young children total \$18,801,507 in SFY 07-08 and \$44,905,412 in SFY 08-09.

Early Intervention: Birth to Three

Expand the highly successful CT Birth to Three Program to children with mild developmental delays during the period of birth to three years. Recommended by the Early Childhood Education Cabinet. Cost analyses by the Early Childhood Research and Policy Council. New funds will enable the program to serve an additional 228 young children.

- SFY 07-08 -- \$913,507 (net after federal reimbursement)
- SFY 08-09 -- \$1,267,912 (net after federal reimbursement)

Early Education: CT School Readiness Program

Expand access to 4,000 additional preschool-aged children over the next two years, 32% of the 13,000 young children statewide awaiting programs. Recommended by the Cabinet. Roll out scheduled recommended by the Early Childhood Research and Policy Council. This increase will nearly double the current level of state expenditure on the School Readiness Program (\$56 million in SFY 06-07). Based on analyses still to be completed, funds will be made available on a statewide basis to preschool children in families at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level.

- SFY 07-08: \$11,050,000
- SFY 08-09: \$30,500,000

Support the construction and/or renovation of 4,000 new preschool spaces in center-based facilities to address the shortage of preschool space capacity across Connecticut. Recommended by the Early Childhood Research and Policy Council. This debt-subsidy support and technical assistance to communities regarding development of high quality spaces for young children is largely managed by the CT Health and Education Facilities Authority.

- SFY 07-08: \$2,000,000
- SFY 08-09: \$4,000,000

Establish rate equity for the Department of Social Services child care centers serving preschool children with the CT School Readiness Program, and require centers to meet School Readiness Program requirements. These centers serve 2,441 preschoolers. Recommended by the Early Childhood Education Cabinet.

- SFY 07-08: \$2,160,000
- SFY 08-09: \$4,460,000

Early Education: Workforce Development and Support

Adopt the recommendations of the Early Childhood Research and Policy Council, for implementation of a multi-year early childhood workforce professional development plan. The workforce plans calls for expansion of workforce scholarships, loan reimbursement, minority teacher incentives, bonuses, and the development of CT higher education programs to assure sufficient numbers of BA level teachers as required by state law. Total investment in SFY 07-08 equals \$1,108,000; in SFY 08-09 equals \$2,957,500.

- Scholarships: SFY 07-08: \$381,000 – SFY 08-09: \$930,000
- Loan reimbursement: SFY 07-08: \$58,000 – SFY 08-09: \$162,500
- Minority teacher incentives: SFY 07-08: \$56,000 – SFY 08-09: \$140,000
- Higher education collaborative: SFY 07-08: \$538,000 – SFY \$1,575,000
- Staff bonuses: SFY 07-08: \$75,000 – SFY 08-09: \$150,000

Management and Accountability Improvements

Begin development of a CT Quality Rating System and improve data use across agencies. Related to a recommendation of the Early Childhood Research and Policy Council.

- SFY 07-08: \$1,000,000
- SFY 08-09: \$1,000,000

Expand technical assistance to communities involved in preschool expansion through technical assistance support. Related to a recommendation of the Early Childhood Research and Policy Council to build local capacity for B-5 school readiness expansion and management.

- SFY 07-08: \$450,000
- SFY 08-09: \$600,000

Increase management capacity at the State Department of Education with a new Bureau Chief for Early Childhood

- SFY 07-08: \$120,000
- SFY 08-09: \$120,000