

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0047
(916) 319-2047
FAX (916) 319-2147

DISTRICT OFFICE
290 NORTH D STREET, SUITE 903
SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92401
(909) 381-3238
FAX (909) 885-8589

E-MAIL
Assemblymember.Reyes@assembly.ca.gov



COMMITTEES
AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE
BUDGET
JUDICIARY
LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
UTILITIES AND ENERGY
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 2 ON
EDUCATION FINANCE
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS

May 28th, 2021

The Honorable Kevin McCarty
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #2, Education Finance
State Capitol, Room 2136
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Budget Request for support Head Start agencies in TK transition

Dear Chairman McCarty:

This letter is to request a **\$50 million appropriation in the 2021-22 budget for grants to support Head Start programs as they navigate the impacts of the expansion of Transitional Kindergarten in California.**

Head Start programs in California operate over 1,700 sites across the state and serve the most at-risk children and families with early learning and wraparound services. These programs are nationally recognized for their high quality, whole-child, whole-family approach, and for their foundation of increasing racial and economic equity.

The expansion of Transitional Kindergarten to serve all four-year olds has serious implications for Head Start programs. As four-year olds constitute nearly 60% of Head Start funding in California, these programs cannot easily shift their funding to serve more 0-3 year-olds. It involves a re-application of Early Head Start grant funding and an approval process by the federal Office of Head Start. Without additional fiscal support that is equitable to the support provided to other parts of the mixed-delivery system, the ability of Head Start programs to accommodate this change will be jeopardized.

For this reason, I request your strong consideration and approval of a \$50 million appropriation in the 2021-22 budget for grants to assist Head Start programs in building agency capacity, recruiting and retaining a growing workforce, and identifying more Head Start eligible families. Additionally, these funds would be used to expand services to serve more children and families and provide expanded, non-traditional hours of care.

As a member of the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance, former Chair of the Assembly Human Services Committee, and Member of Speaker Rendon's Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) on Early Childhood Education, one of my top priorities is to ensure we make critical investments in our state's system of early education and care. This request is consistent with the BRC Report, which specifically recognizes the critical role of Head Start in California's mixed-delivery system and recommends state investment in Head Start.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact my Legislative Aide Shannon Flores at shannon.flores@asm.ca.gov or (916) 319-2047.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eloise Gómez Reyes', with a stylized, cursive script.

Assembly Majority Leader Eloise Gómez Reyes
47th Assembly District

Cc: Assemblymember Phil Ting, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee