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Californians for the Support of Early Education

Providing the children of California with the tools necessary for a lifetime of success begins with the quality of our early education programs. Ensuring the quality of these programs begins with you and your support. The focus of Californians for the Support of Early Education is to advance public policy efforts, and to recruit and support like-minded candidates for elective office. CSEE is particularly interested in including people like you to help build the strong foundation for a non-partisan, energetic and intelligent coalition. Please accept our invitation to join CSEE as we diligently work toward a better future for California's youngest citizens. We hope you enjoy our Fall 2009 Newsletter.



Editorial:
Every Voice Counts for Children!

Participating in elections is our civic responsibility and a privilege. As evidenced in the last national election in this country-the power of the common voter is a powerful tool for positive change in our lives and those of our children. In that presidential election, it was said that it was "the black vote," or the "young people's vote," or the "women's vote," that got him elected. We believe that, if informed, parents and professionals of young children could be a voting block far more powerful than anything ever seen in this state or county.

Regardless of whether you have young children, we must all be concerned with the future of all of our children who will one day run our corporations and the nation. We must invest in their future, now! Success begins with opportunity... opportunity

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So Cal Social



On October 16th, CSEE will be hosting an event in Los Angeles to raise funds for candidates who put young children high on their list of political priorities. This is just one of many events that CSEE is conducting over the next several months to prepare for next year's election.

Dr. Karen Hill Scott, a nationally recognized child development expert who specializes in early education and children's TV programming, will be headlining the event.

So Cal Social: Candidates for Kids Fundraising Reception

Where: Liberty Grill, 1037 S. Flower St., Los Angeles, CA 90015

(across the street from the Staples Center and LA Live)

When: Friday, October 16, 2009, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Suggested Donation \$50

With active participation in the political process, we can make a difference for children and families in California.

[Donate to CSEEPAC Now](#)

Thank You!!!

September's Back to School FUNdraiser in Sacramento was a great success. In total \$3000 was raised for CSEEPAC. Thanks to all who joined us for a HOT day in Elk Grove.

Who's Voting for Children?



Report Details Votes on Key Children's Bills

On The Capitol Doorstep (OTCD) recently published the 2009 voting records of legislators in Sacramento on twelve key bills affecting children. The information can be found in their 2009 Voting Record report released last month. OTCD has been providing information on California and federal

legislation affecting young children since 1971 and currently follows legislative efforts relative to child protection; child safety; education; health, mental health and disabilities; nutrition and public assistance. For more information on OTCD or to learn how your representative voted on key pieces of legislation, please go to the organization's [web site](#).

ARRA Update

California Receives Billions in Federal Stimulus Aide

Signed into law on February 17th, 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), also known as the federal stimulus package, extends a number of funding supports to early childhood programs, which can be used to help boost early education efforts at the state and local levels. Given its sheer size and population, the State of California has received a substantial share of these resources. Table 1 shows the amount of funds that the State is estimated to receive for a variety of programs that support birth to five services for children.

Funding Estimates for Major Federal Stimulus Programs
Program - Total Funding/CA Funding

begins with education.

Parents and professionals must be aware and get involved in the political decisions that impact the lives of children in this state. Public policy can no longer be left to those few who have a special interest or have an ambitious political goal. It is time to become involved and understand what is at stake.

U.S. House Passes Early Learning Challenge Fund

On September 17th, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act (H.R. 3221) by a bipartisan vote of 253 to 171. The bill would create an Early Learning Challenge Fund for states to develop and enhance access to high quality early learning programs. The fund would provide \$1 billion annually for eight years and represents a strong start for a national effort to improve the quality of early childhood education programs. States will be able to use funds to transform early education standards and practices, build an effective early childhood workforce, and improve the school readiness outcomes of young children.

To learn how your federal Representative voted on H.R. 3221, [view the Roll Call vote](#). The bill now heads to the Senate where its outlook is favorable. Please stay tuned for further updates.

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Who We Are

Title I, Part A \$10,000,000,000/\$1,128,226,000
Title I, School Improvement Grants - \$3,000,000,000/\$383,259,000 Early
Head Start - \$1,100,000,000/\$58,943,000
Head Start - \$1,000,000,000/\$12,004,500
IDEA (Part C) Infants and Families - \$500,000,000/\$53,233,307

Many of these funds, including allocations for Head Start and Early Head Start programs, and child care subsidies are intended to improve access to early care and education services. Other sources of ARRA such as Title I funds for low-income school districts, may be used to support early education efforts, depending on state and local decisions. Several organizations focused on improving services for children birth to five have provided summaries, analyses and recommendations regarding the use of ARRA funds for early education purposes, which are downloadable on the National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center's website.

Unfortunately, California's severe budget shortfall undermines the impact of many of these additional funds. In some cases, the State is using these dollars to backfill cuts that have already been made to existing programs, and in others, to shore up programs that are still in jeopardy. The California Department of Education maintains an ARRA web site with links to important resources, including grant applications for local funding opportunities.

[Learn More About ARRA](#)

[ARRA Resources from NECTAC](#)

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Investments Made Simple



OECD Report Says Spend Early on Children

In a recent report, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), urges governments to give higher priority to spending on early education. Doing Better for Children points out that the U.S. spends about \$20,000 per child on education, health and other factors affecting child well-being up to age 6, whereas the average OECD member country spends the equivalent of \$30,000. This pattern in the U.S. reverses as children get older. OECD suggests that during the current economic crisis, governments should focus more on front-end investments since they are likely to have higher returns in the long run. More detailed information on the report is available [here](#).



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