

CITY OF OAKLAND
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

CITY OF OAKLAND
05 JUN 30 PM 1:36

TO: Oakland City Council Colleagues
FROM: Council President Ignacio De La Fuente
DATE: July 14, 2005 (Rules & Legislation Committee)
RE: **RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING SUPPORT FOR AN EXPANSION OF PRE-SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES AS ENVISIONED BY THE "PRE-SCHOOL FOR ALL ACT," A PROPOSED BALLOT INITIATIVE FOR JUNE 2006 LED BY ROB REINER WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH FREE PRE-SCHOOL FOR ALL CHILDREN IN CALIFORNIA.**

SUMMARY OF RESOLUTION

This Resolution proclaims support for an expansion of pre-school opportunities as envisioned by the "Preschool for All Act," a proposed ballot initiative for the June 2006 elections. The initiative, led by Rob Reiner and supported by the Oakland-based nonprofit "Preschool California," would make available free, part-day pre-school for all children in California. In Oakland, there are 23,000 children ages 2, 3, and 4, according to the U.S. Census from 2000.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no direct fiscal impact to the city government. If approved by voters, the "Preschool for All Act" would fund additional preschool opportunities through a 1.7% additional tax on taxable income over \$800,000 for couples filing jointly and on taxable income over \$400,000 for individuals. These taxpayers are more likely to have benefited from recent tax cuts enacted by the U.S. Congress and President George W. Bush as well as from the property tax rules of Proposition 13 approved by California voters in 1978.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

There is no direct impact to the natural environment.

BACKGROUND

The full text of the 33-page initiative, as submitted to the California Attorney General, can be reviewed on-line at the following website address: <http://www.preschoolcalifornia.org/docs/pdf/preschool-initiative.pdf>


Attached to this Council report are summaries of the ballot initiative as well as "frequently asked questions" answered by the nonprofit organization "Preschool California."

There are numerous studies demonstrating the educational and economic benefits for children who attend preschool, such as a report by the RAND Corporation published in March 2005 and available on-line at the following website address. http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2005/RAND_MG349.pdf

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

I am asking the City Council to approve this Resolution to support an expansion of preschool opportunities as envisioned by the proposed "Preschool for All Act" ballot initiative.

Draft report prepared by: Alex Pedersen, Legislative Analyst, Office of City Council President Ignacio De La Fuente

Item # 
July 14, 2005

Rules & Legislation Committee

FILED
OFFICE OF APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY
OAKLAND
05 JUN 30 11:35
City Attorney

OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____ C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT IGNACIO DE LA FUENTE

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING SUPPORT FOR AN EXPANSION OF PRE-SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES AS ENVISIONED BY THE "PRE-SCHOOL FOR ALL ACT," A PROPOSED BALLOT INITIATIVE FOR JUNE 2006 LED BY ROB REINER WHICH WOULD ESTABLISH FREE PRE-SCHOOL FOR ALL CHILDREN IN CALIFORNIA.

WHEREAS, the City of Oakland is committed to supporting the young residents of Oakland as articulated by the City Council goal of ensuring that all Oakland youth have the opportunity to be successful; and

WHEREAS, youth who receive a quality education have the greatest chance to be successful; and

WHEREAS, children who attend preschool are better prepared to learn during their K-12 school years and are more likely to graduate from high school; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous studies demonstrating the educational and economic benefits for children who attend preschool, such as a report by the RAND Corporation published on March 30, 2005 entitled "The Economics of Investing in Universal Preschool Education in California;" and

WHEREAS, there are 23,000 children ages 2, 3, and 4 residing in Oakland, according to the U.S. Census of 2000; and

WHEREAS, the resources available for public education are limited by existing state law; and

WHEREAS, a ballot initiative is a means by which citizens can increase the amount of resources invested in early childhood education; and

WHEREAS, the preschool opportunities made available by the proposed "Pre-School for All Act" would be voluntary and would adhere to high quality standards; now, therefore, be it

6
OFFICE OF LEGISLATION
CMTE

JUL 14 2005

RESOLVED, that the Oakland City Council hereby proclaims its support for an expansion of preschool opportunities as envisioned by the "Pre-School For All Act," a proposed ballot initiative for June 2006 led by Rob Reiner which would establish free pre-school for all children in California.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, _____.

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES- BROOKS, BRUNNER, CHANG, KERNIGHAN, NADEL, REID, QUAN, AND PRESIDENT DE LA FUENTE

NOES-
ABSENT-
ABSENTION-

ATTEST: _____
LaTonda Simmons
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council
of the City of Oakland, California

Summary of the Preschool for All Act

OVERVIEW

Aimed for the June 2006 ballot, the Preschool for All Act represents one of the smartest and most forward-looking investments California can make in its children, its economy, and its future. It capitalizes on what has thus far been California's tremendous missed opportunity: the chance to reach children when their brains are developing rapidly, when we can lay a strong foundation for their success in school. It will strengthen our K-12 public schools by ensuring that all children have the opportunity to enter kindergarten ready to learn.

- The Act establishes free, part-day preschool for all California children whose parents choose to enroll them in the year prior to kindergarten.
- It builds upon the existing preschool system and may be delivered by both public and private providers.
- The Act funds preschool through a 1.7% additional tax on taxable income over \$800,000 for couples filing jointly and over \$400,000 for individuals.
- It places revenues in a trust fund dedicated solely to preschool.

GOVERNANCE

Overseen by the SPI and delivered through County Superintendents of Schools, *the Act ensures state-level authority and local flexibility.*

- The SPI will establish statewide quality standards and approve local plans.
- County Superintendents will oversee local planning, implementation, and construction of facilities.

PLANNING AND DELIVERY

Recognizing the diverse needs of California communities, the Act vests County Superintendents with the responsibility to work with a local advisory committee to create, implement and monitor a county level program that meets the needs of local families, and considers the diverse needs of children, including those with special needs. County Superintendents may contract with local providers including: school districts; charters; colleges, and other licensed providers, including centers and family child care homes.

INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

Well-trained teachers and instructional aides are critical to preparing children for social and educational success in school. By 2016, all program teachers must have bachelor's degrees including 24 units in early care and education and an Early Learning Credential. The Act includes financial aid for individuals earning these qualifications, provided they commit to teaching for a period of time that justifies the public's investment in their training. Public colleges and universities will be funded to develop coursework and degrees in early care and education.

ACCOUNTABILITY

The Act respects the public's right to know that its investment achieves results for kids and K-12 schools.

- The SPI will monitor County Superintendents in their delivery of Preschool for All, and may impose sanctions for failure to deliver quality, fiscally sound programs.
- The Governor will oversee regular statewide fiscal audits and program evaluations.
- County Superintendents will monitor quality, access, and fiscal accountability and report their findings to the public.
- The Act caps administrative spending at the state and county levels and requires the state Legislature to set fines and/or criminal penalties for misuse of funds.

###



[About Us](#) | [The Value of Preschool](#) | [Supporters](#) | [Get Involved](#) | [En Español](#) | [Home](#)

What's New

Sign up for email alerts and updates on the campaign for preschool for all. Check out our report. Join Preschool California's Leadership Council. Pass a resolution of support.

[PRESCHOOL FOR ALL INITIATIVE](#)

[REPORT - PRESCHOOL SHORTAGE](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

[JOIN OUR E-MAIL LIST!](#)

[PRESCHOOL CALIFORNIA REPORT](#)

[MEDIA CENTER](#)

[STATEWIDE EFFORTS](#)

[FACTS AND FIGURES](#)

[LINKS AND RESOURCES](#)

[TELL-A-FRIEND](#)

[PRESCHOOL FOR ALL VIDEO](#)

Preschool for All Initiative

Preschool for All Initiative Filed

On June 17, 2005, children's advocate Rob Reiner and a broad-based coalition of business, labor and education leaders filed a June 2006 ballot initiative to offer quality preschool programs for all California 4-year-olds whose parents choose to enroll them. Citing documented benefits to children, K-12 schools and the California economy, the coalition said the Preschool for All Act represents one of the smartest and most forward looking investments California can make in its children, its economy, and its future.

The initiative funds voluntary preschool for all California children in the year prior to kindergarten. It asks for support from the wealthiest .6% of Californians by increasing their tax rate by 1.7% on the annual income they earn over \$800,000 for married couples or \$400,000 for individuals. Built on the existing public/private preschool system, the initiative insists upon quality for children and their families; adequate qualifications and compensation for instructional staff; flexibility to meet local needs; and accountability to the public.

[Click here](#) to view the full text of the initiative.

To download a summary of the initiative, please [click here](#).

[Click here](#) to view some frequently asked questions and answers.

If you would like to stay updated on the progress of the Preschool for All initiative, please sign up to join our listserv by sending an email to get_involved-subscribe@preschoolcalifornia.org.

Click on these links to see news coverage from California papers:

- **Sacramento Bee:**
[Real advocates for kids step up for universal preschool drive](#)
- **Associated Press:**
[Reiner proposes preschool ballot measure](#)
- **Los Angeles Times:**
[Ballot Measure Proposed to Offer Free Preschool for All 4-Year-Olds](#)
- **San Jose Mercury News:**
[Initiative: Preschool for all kids in the state](#)

For background information, here are three important sources:

- RAND's March 30 report on the economic benefits of a Preschool for All program in California (\$2.62 for every \$1 invested)
- Fight Crime Invest in Kids California's February report revealing that 3 out of 4 publicly funded preschool programs in California have children waiting in line to get in
- Preschool California's Report, *Kids Can't Wait to Learn*, features preschool research, statewide momentum and local enrollment rates

Preschool California: 414 13th Street, Suite 500, Oakland, CA 94612 - Tel: (510) 271-0075, Fax: (510) 271-0707
Email: getinvolved@preschoolcalifornia.org Web: www.preschoolcalifornia.org
© Copyright 2004 Preschool California

"Kids Can't Wait to Learn" is a trademark owned by the Trust for Early Education

The Preschool for All Act: Frequently Asked Questions

Don't California children already have access to preschool?

Hundreds of thousands of California children can't find a place in quality preschool, either because subsidized programs are full or because their parents can't afford the cost of a private program. A recent survey by the law enforcement group Fight Crime: Invest in Kids *California* found that 3 out of 4 publicly funded preschool programs statewide have children on waiting lists. That doesn't begin to account for the working families whose kids don't even qualify for subsidies. They can't afford the cost of private preschool, which often runs higher than tuition to state universities. Given how rapidly children's brains are developing during the preschool years, and the demonstrated benefits that preschool delivers, all children deserve the opportunity to enroll.

Does preschool make a measurable difference in children's lives?

A mountain of respected research shows that preschool lays a foundation for children's success in school and in life. Ninety percent of brain growth takes place before most children enter kindergarten. Preschool takes advantage of this period of rapid development to lay a strong educational and social foundation for elementary school and beyond. Children who have the chance to go to quality preschool are more likely to read by the time they reach third grade; less likely to be placed in special education or held back in school; more likely to graduate high school and go to college; less likely to be arrested or jailed; and more likely to support themselves as adults. The returns are enormous to individuals, from childhood into adulthood. They are also substantial for the economy and society.

Shouldn't we reform K-12 first?

Providing preschool for all is a strategic and critical step toward K-12 reform. Studies show that children who attend preschool are far more likely to enter kindergarten ready to learn, read at grade level by third grade, graduate from high school and go to college. Making sure that every child in every California county has an equal opportunity to get ready for school may offer our best chance to close the persistent achievement gap that has plagued California schools for generations.

Can California afford to do this now?

Now is exactly the time for California to make a smart investment in the future. The RAND Institution recently projected that every dollar California invests in a quality, universal preschool program will return \$2.62 to society. Put simply, kids who get a strong start in school become net contributors to our economy. They will become the skilled workforce that California employers shouldn't have to import from elsewhere. Success for California depends on our ability to educate our children to succeed in the 21st Century and prepare them to restore California to its rightful place as a world "economic leader." Instead of asking whether we can afford to provide preschool for all, we should be asking whether we can afford not to.

Why target the upper-income tax bracket?

Because the top .6% of earners in California are those who can most afford to pay. People in this category – individuals earning more than \$400,000 annually and couples earning more than \$800,000 – got an average tax cut of \$77,000 from the federal government last year. We are asking them to give back an average of \$8,000 of that tax cut to help build the kind of education infrastructure that will make preschool available to all children and keep the California economy strong. These high earners bring home at least 28 times as much income as minimum-wage-earning parents, who work full-time but still cannot afford to pay for quality preschool programs. The Act returns California's upper-income tax rates to levels first instituted by Governors Ronald Reagan and Pete Wilson.

Would children be required to go to preschool?

Absolutely not. The act creates opportunity and choice for families who want to enroll their 4-year-olds. The only thing mandatory would be quality experiences for children who do enroll, with statewide standards ensuring well-trained teachers, appropriate ratios of children/teachers, and developmentally appropriate classrooms and curriculum.

How will the program be run?

The Act strikes the right balance between state-level standards and accountability and local-level flexibility, public-private partnership and parent choice. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) has ultimate responsibility for the success of the preschool-for-all program. County Superintendents are responsible for planning and administering programs locally to families. County Superintendents may contract with a variety of preschool providers – public programs such as State Preschool and Head Start, private and non-profit preschools and family child-care homes – as long as they meet state quality standards.

What happens to existing preschool programs?

Programs such as State Preschool and Head Start, as well as state-contracted programs that include a preschool component, and private preschool centers and family childcare homes, may offer Preschool for All provided they meet quality standards – including well trained teachers – as defined by the SPI. State Preschool and Head Start programs will be reimbursed the difference between what they now receive from the state and the rate paid to programs to deliver preschool.

How will the public know its tax dollars are well spent?

The Act includes strong accountability measures requiring County Superintendents to monitor local programs for quality, access and fiscal accountability and to post reports and audits on the internet. If any county fails to meet the requirements of the Act, the state Superintendent of Public Instruction may remove local authority, administer the program directly or assign responsibility for administration elsewhere. The SPI will appoint Parent Advocates in each county to hear and resolve parent concerns about access and quality. In addition, the Governor will assure that regular statewide fiscal audits and programmatic evaluations are conducted and published. The state Legislature may set fines and/or criminal penalties for misuse of funds.

Do other states offer universal preschool?

Georgia and Oklahoma already provide preschool to all 4-year-olds whose parents want to enroll them. Florida voters passed a ballot initiative for universal preschool, and New York is also moving in that direction. If they can do it, so can California.

How will we find enough qualified teachers?

The Act recognizes that the program's success will depend upon putting a well-trained teacher in every preschool classroom. That's why it requires preschool teachers, over time, to have credentials comparable to those in the K-12 system, and to be similarly compensated. It also provides financial aid for existing and aspiring preschool teachers to get Bachelor's degrees and training in early childhood development and eventually to earn an Early Learning Credential. The Act includes funding for public colleges and universities to develop appropriate coursework.

How does the Preschool for All Act differ from last year's Reiner/CTA preschool initiative?

This initiative was crafted through an open and deliberative process led by Rob Reiner. He formed an exploratory committee that included diverse representatives from business, labor, K-12, children's advocacy and early care and education. The committee reached out to dozens of organizations statewide. It worked together for eight months to craft the best possible policy for California children, one that builds on the diversity and choice of the existing public/private delivery system.

Further questions? Please contact Susanna Cooper, Director of Communications, Preschool California, scooper@preschoolcalifornia.org or (916) 730-2053.

6

**RULES & LEGISLATION
CMTE**

JUL 14 2005