



CHILDREN LEARNING, PARENTS EARNING 1540 River Park Drive, Suite 209, Sacramento, CA 95815 Phone: (916) 567-6797 FAX: (916) 567-6790

Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor, State of California  
Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Michael Kirst, President, State Board of Education  
c/o Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant State Working Group  
Child Development Division  
California Department of Education  
1430 N Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

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

The California Alternative Payment Program Association would like to communicate our strong support of California's application for the federal Race to the Top (RTT) Phase Early Learning Challenge Funds. This exciting and much needed opportunity provides California the ability to utilize already established local and regional early care and education programs as a foundation to greatly enhance and strengthen the state's early learning and development system. California's proposal will give the state a plan that reflects and builds upon the excellent work underway in our communities. The end result will be a high quality and sustainable early learning and development statewide network, grounded in local resources and supported by the California Department of Education. Key highlights of the plan include:

- Creating a strong network of Early Learning Challenge Leadership Communities, made up of local and regional early care and education programs that are or have agreed to adopt and implement a Quality Rating and Improvement System that will help to improve and enhance the developmental services our children deserve, especially high-need students;
- Highlighting the success of these locally proven programmatic efforts and emulating their great work through practices to be adopted for use across the state;
- Using the results of RTT programs to drive changes in regulations and laws impacting all ECE programs statewide, as appropriate; and
- Building upon existing efforts to form a coherent and integrated early learning workforce development system.

California has long recognized the critical nature of investments in our youngest learners. With California representing 13 percent of the nation's children and 21 percent of California's children living in poverty, the state is an indispensable part of any national effort to close the achievement gap. California's Early Learning Challenge proposal represents an excellent opportunity for our state and nation to take a major step towards educational excellence for all.

If you have any questions regarding this letter of support, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. M. Kowalewski'.

Denyne M. Kowalewski

Cc: Chris Reeve  
Office of State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson

