



Media Contact:
Mario
Fierro-Hernandez
Communications Manager
510-673-0781
mfhernandez@kidango.org
www.kidango.org

Kidango Commends Governor's Budget Committing to Pre-K and Early Learning in California

2022-2023 State Budget proposal outlines key investments to early learning and care

FREMONT, Calif. (Jan. 11, 2022) - On Monday, January 10, Governor Gavin Newsom announced California's 2022-2023 State Budget proposal, outlining key investments to support the critical needs of working families with young children as *The Parents Agenda*. Kidango is grateful for the Governor's continued commitment to early learning and care, especially the expansion and implementation of universal transitional kindergarten which gives all families with 4 year olds access to free pre-k at their local public schools, and additional subsidized child care slots of families and child care rate increases. These investments reduce the financial pressure for families, and promotes school readiness for our youngest learners.

Kidango was pleased to see key elements of our sponsored bill from last year, Senate Bill 50 authored by Senator Monique Limón, were included in the budget proposal, including 24-month continuous eligibility and allowing State Preschool providers to serve two-year-old children, expanding the early learning opportunities for low-income toddlers. We are excited about the investments to enable State Preschool providers to better support students with disabilities and dual language learners.

Kidango commends the Governor for his continued investments to build a stronger Early Learning and Care system and looks forward to working with the Administration and the Legislature to fulfill the promise of equitable access to quality early learning and care, including action to eliminate exclusionary practices like suspensions and expulsions that disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous and children of color, and preventative investments to create more equitable early learning settings, including Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation.

Governor Newsom's state budget proposal provides deeper emphasis on whole-child/whole-family approaches that includes the expansion of the Young Child Tax Credit to families that file returns without income, allowing more families to benefit, and doubling home visits for families with children ages 0 to 3 with an emphasis on Black infants. "We cannot lose sight of what families and the ECE workforce are facing right now, especially Black, Indigenous, and families of color. As a state, we are making progress in achieving the vision of The Master Plan for Early Learning and Care, and we still have a long road ahead of us. With continued advocacy and collaboration with all stakeholders, we are hopeful for early learning and care systems that serve and meet the diverse needs of all children, families and ECE professionals, especially Black, Latinx, Indigenous people and others harmed by systemic racism and additional injustices" said Maéva Renaud, Vice President of Advocacy and Policy at Kidango.

About Kidango

Kidango is an early learning nonprofit committed to setting every child on a path to thrive in kindergarten and in life. We believe that every child has unlimited potential if we support our children, families, and communities with the right opportunities and resources. As the largest child care provider in the San Francisco Bay Area, we provide 4,000 children with safe, healthy, nurturing environments and relationships, so that every child has the social, emotional, and academic skills they need to learn, grow and realize their potential. For more information, visit www.kidango.org.

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