Did you know that children who attend preschool are more successful in school? Children who do not go to preschool often struggle with reading and are more likely to drop out of high school. The new changes in school funding approved by Governor Brown can help increase preschool opportunities for children in your community. Your feedback will help inform schools on how to spend money so it matters for young children.

**YOUR VOICE MATTERS FOR OUR CHILDREN!**

- Discuss the important role early education plays in preparing children for success in school
- Hear how changes in school funding affect young children
- Share your feedback with decision makers to increase funding for early learners

Please sign up to attend by calling Oya Sherrills at (323)752-9997ext.323

Free refreshments, parking, & raffle prizes provided!
Background: The Governor approved a new way to fund schools called the Local Control Formula Funding. Under the new funding system, school districts can earn additional money based on the number of low-income, foster care, and English Learner students they serve. They also have more flexibility for how they spend funds so that they are able to help the neediest students.

Issue: Students, who fail to get a good start during their early years, are not prepared to enter Kindergarten and are more likely to struggle in school. With the new funding formula, schools will be allocated additional funds based on the high number of children living in poverty, foster homes and English Learners they serve. These additional funds need to be used to support better learning outcomes for these children. Studies show that early learning programs like preschool and transitional kindergarten have improved outcomes for students. School districts have been providing preschool for years, and school leaders know the connection between school readiness and later success. However, in budget crisis early learning programs are often reduced or eliminated. Parent/community input and ongoing monitoring of how local districts are spending the funds, will be needed to ensure that school leaders continue to invest in early learning programs so that students are ready for success in school.

Why early learning matters for your children:
• 85% of brain growth occurs from birth to five years.
• Children who attend quality preschools do better in reading, spelling, and math in school.
• When students access quality early learning programs, high school graduation rates increased by as much as 44%.

Opportunity: With the new funding formula, schools can help ensure that funds are used to support the early learning needs of students. A child's ability to access quality preschool and other early learning programs can make a huge difference in their readiness for Kindergarten and beyond. It is critical that school district’s use the additional funds they receive to support the needs of children living in poverty, foster homes and English Learners. As school districts decide how they spend the funds to support students, they are required to hear from parents and community members about where they should prioritize funds for underserved students.

What: Join us for a community forum on November 14th to discuss how the new funding formula impacts young children. Your feedback will be shared with school leaders to help them decide where to invest these funds.