



Summary FY 2010-11 Budget Shortfall for Early Learning \$146.8 Million

To maintain current service levels for children in school readiness and VPK programs, the legislature must:

School Readiness (SR)

- Restore \$37.8M in recurring general revenue authority for children (age 0 to 3) currently participating in School Readiness. In FY 2009-10, the legislature reduced recurring general revenue appropriated to the SR Program by \$37,789,559 and replaced it with non-recurring stimulus funding. At present, 856,000 children are eligible for SR services but only 248,000 (less than 30%) are receiving services due to funding limitations.

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)*

- Restore \$38M recurring trust fund authority to maintain services for children (age 4) currently participating in the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Program. Trust fund money was replaced with non-recurring federal stimulus dollars in 2009-10.
- Provide \$28.2 M in non-recurring trust fund budget authority to cover VPK deficits in 2008-09 (\$8.3M) and 2009-10 (\$19.9M). The deficits resulted from unanticipated growth in VPK enrollment.
- Provide \$42.8M in additional recurring trust fund budget authority for projected growth in VPK for 2010-11 per the Dec. 7, 2009, VPK estimating conference. Projections show an increase above base funding of approximately 15,774 children to be added to the 156,000 children presently served.

* *Note: The state constitution requires that all 4-year-olds who enroll in VPK must be served. Therefore, without the necessary funding, the student base allocation would have to be reduced from \$2,575 to \$1,890 (26.6%) per child, resulting in significant erosion in quality and a drop in the number of providers able to offer VPK.*

Total Shortfall: \$146.81

Other Issues

- Provide \$2M to fund continued development of the Early Learning Information System (\$9M in stimulus funding has been earmarked for ELIS).
- Provide \$1M to DCF to shore up capacity to address increased workload in child care facility licensure.

As of Dec. 9, 2009