First 5 LA’s Mission

First 5 LA, in partnership with others, strengthens families, communities, and systems of services and supports so all children in L.A. County enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and life.
Why Does Early Learning Matter?

**Unique Window to Build Strong Foundations**: 90% of human brain development occurs before age 5

123 studies affirming that children in high-quality preschools counteract at least half the achievement gap between low-income and other students.

**Early Care and Education (ECE) benefits** include:
- Greater academic achievement
- Reduced grade retention/repeats
- Reduced special education up to 32% by third grade
- Increased high school graduation rates
- Stronger gains for English Language learners

Nobel Laureate Economist James Heckman: high-quality ECE yields up to a **13% return on investment** in school and life
Why Should Early Learning Matter to LAUSD?

We must build stronger foundations for children to succeed, and to prevent early achievement gaps:

- 70% of LAUSD’s economically disadvantaged third graders did not meet English Language Arts (ELA) standards
- 66% of LAUSD’s economically disadvantaged third graders did not meet Math standards
- 95% of LAUSD’s English learner third graders did not meet English Language Arts (ELA) and 89% did not meet Math standards.

Despite Undisputed Efficacy, CA Slashed Early Learning Opportunities in Recession

Starting in 2008, the State legislature and Governor:

• Cut $1 billion in funding for child care and preschool programs (~one-third of budget)
• Eliminated 110,000 slots (~one-quarter of total)
• Alternately froze and then lowered income limits to 70% of state median income.
ECE Reinvestments Have Begun, But Still Lagging Pre-Recession Levels

CA Funding for Subsidized Child Care and Preschool, Inflation-Adjusted

Note: Figures are in 2018-19 dollars and include federal and state funds for slots as well as for quality and support programs. Child care includes CalWORKs and non-CalWORKs programs. Preschool excludes Transitional Kindergarten.
Source: California Budget & Policy Center, analysis of California Department of Education and Department of Finance
CA Still Has 64,000 Fewer Child Care and Preschool Slots Than in 2007-08

Annual Subsidized Child Care and Preschool Slots, Compared to 2007-08

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* Proposed

Note: Child care includes CalWORKs and non-CalWORKs programs and excludes Transitional Kindergarten. Slots include those funded with federal and/or state dollars.

Source: California Budget & Policy Center, analysis of Department of Finance and Legislative Analyst’s Office data.
13K Fewer State Preschool Opportunities Now Than Before Recession

Average Monthly Number of Children Enrolled

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand. California Community Colleges CalWORKs Stage 2 data for 2016-17 reflect estimates, not actuals.
Source: California Budget & Policy Center, analysis of California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office, California Department of Education, and Department of Social Services
Affordability Crisis Shuts Out Children of Poor and Working Class Families

Note: Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred. Cost of care is full-time for infants and preschoolers and prorated according to the school year for a school-age child. Costs are based on counties’ median cost of care weighted to reflect each county’s child population.

Source: California Budget & Policy Center analysis of California Department of Education data, 2016 Regional Market Rate Survey
Too Many Young Children Suffer from the Opportunity Gap in LA

• Among working families whose low income makes them eligible for state subsidies for child care and preschool:
  ❖ 85% of infants and toddlers still lack access to licensed care
  ❖ 59% of income-eligible preschoolers also lack the opportunity to begin learning in preschool
Opportunities for LAUSD
LAUSD Opportunity: The Governor’s Proposed Budget

• Increases the reimbursement rates for early care and education providers, and adds an additional 2,959 full-day preschool spaces.

• Provides $167.7 million in one-time funding to create the Inclusive Early Education Expansion Program to help increase the availability of inclusive early care and education services for children 0-5, in particular for children with exceptional needs.
Expanded Transitional Kindergarten as a Model for Excellence for California:

• Credentialed teachers with specialized early education training
• Full-day program
• Ongoing professional development
• State Preschool adult:child ratios
• Utilizes existing facilities, eligible for bond funding
• Builds confidence and participation in K-5 schools
• Civil rights/desegregation lineage from School Readiness Language Development Program
LAUSD Opportunity: Expanded Transitional Kindergarten

• Currently, LAUSD typically earns ADA for ETK students in second semester
• Opportunity to access CA State Preschool funds for first semester: ~ $5,000-6,000 for full-day, half-year program
• Estimated 7,000 ETK students @ $5,000 = $35M
• What’s needed to access funding:
  ❖ One-time facilities upgrades and inspections for CSPP access
  ❖ Unclear whether regulatory waiver or authorization is needed beyond existing CA Department of Education guidance
LAUSD Opportunity: Support Child Care Partners in the Community

- Community-based providers play vital roles in preparing 0-5 year olds for K-12 success
- Family child care is the backbone of 0-3 year old services: a launch pad for LAUSD’s preK-12 success
- CBOs are more adept at being responsive to “extreme child care” hours necessary for many working class and working poor families
- Opportunity for greater articulation with child care partners
LAUSD Opportunity: LCFF Funding

• “[LCFF’s] increases in district per-pupil revenue led to significant increases in public pre-k spending per 4-year-old” throughout California
