

**Brief Report: Funding cuts to state-funded prekindergarten programs in FY10 & 11**  
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The National Institute for Early Education Research has been carefully tracking the effects of the “great recession” on state-funded preschool programs. As we documented in the *State of Preschool 2009* Yearbook, although state expenditures for pre-K increased across all 38 states with programs, the rate of growth of spending had declined from previous years. Four states cut spending by a total of \$4.3 million in FY 2009.

In FY 2010 and FY 2011 the effects of the recession on prekindergarten have greatly increased. *We estimate that \$338 million in state funding alone could be cut from prekindergarten programs across fiscal years 2010 and 2011.* As many programs depend on local funding as well as state funding, total cuts of government funds likely exceed state cuts. During FY 2010, \$248.3 million was cut from 16 states with pre-K initiatives. Of those states that cut expenditures in FY 2010, two states (Massachusetts and South Carolina) partially restored funding in FY 2011 by a combined \$5.6 million. In FY 2011 another \$89.6 million is proposed to be cut from state-funded prekindergarten program appropriations. If the FY 2010 pattern is followed, cuts could be even greater by year end. State-by-state information on the amount of each cut in FY 2010 and FY 2011 is provided below.

Illinois accounts for about half of the added cuts for FY2011. Recently, Governor Pat Quinn announced that pre-K would be flat-funded, not cut. However, in the last fiscal year Illinois did not fulfill 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter payments for pre-K, and it failed to fully fund the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter payment after promising that it would be paid in full. Given this history, it is difficult to have any confidence that the proposed cuts have been rescinded. However, if Illinois actually fully funded programs, this would reduce the total cuts to \$300 million and the FY 2011 cuts to \$51.4 million.

| <b>State pre-K program</b>                           | <b>FY10 cuts</b>                                   | <b>FY11 proposed cuts</b> |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Arizona                                              | 50% (\$6,119,959)                                  | 100% (\$6,119,959)        |
| California                                           |                                                    | 0.40% (\$1,755,600)       |
| Colorado                                             | 2.3% (\$950,391)                                   | 3.5% (\$2,565,500)        |
| Connecticut                                          | 5.8% (\$4,187,275)                                 |                           |
| Florida                                              |                                                    | 1% (\$3,672,000)          |
| Illinois                                             | 10% (\$32,702,446)                                 | 15.9% (\$48,431,400)      |
| Kansas (At-Risk Program)                             | 6.8% (\$1,356,767)                                 | 5.2% (\$1,716,000)        |
| Kentucky                                             |                                                    | 2% (\$1,502,000)          |
| Louisiana (LA4)                                      | 7% (\$5,499,000)                                   | 0.8% (\$797,600)          |
| Massachusetts                                        | 27% (\$17,474,398)                                 |                           |
| Michigan                                             | 7.3% (\$7,537,250)                                 |                           |
| New Mexico                                           | 3% (\$549,400)                                     | 10.4% (\$2,007,200)       |
| New York                                             | 8% (\$30,014,097)                                  | 3.5% (\$14,493,500)       |
| North Carolina                                       | 3% (\$5,114,157)                                   | 3% (\$5,000,000)          |
| Ohio                                                 | 33% ECE (\$11,473,552)<br>100% ELI (\$116,874,161) |                           |
| Pennsylvania (Pre-K Counts & state HdSt investments) |                                                    | 0.9% (\$1,300,500)        |
| South Carolina (4K and CDEPP)                        | 16% (\$6,542,810)                                  |                           |
| Washington                                           | 3% (\$1,678,289)                                   | 0.35% (\$193,000)         |
| Wisconsin (HdSt supplement)                          | 3.5% (\$252,438)                                   |                           |

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