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Protecting High Quality Summer Learning Essential

Partnership for Children and Youth's Executive Director Jennifer Peck Responds to Sequestration's Budget Impact on Education in California

Oakland, CA – March 4, 2013 – Partnership for Children and Youth Executive Director Jennifer Peck today responded to the sequestration's budget impact in California, which took effect over the weekend:

"Our country's most vulnerable students will suffer and this will have repercussions for years to come as Superintendents will be forced to choose filling in budget gaps over fundamentals like high-quality summer learning programs, which are critical to student success.

School superintendents across California have been increasingly investing in summer learning programs because research has clearly shown that summer is a critical time for students' to maintain the knowledge and the skill they gained during the school year. A lack of summer learning opportunities is a major contributor to the achievement gap between low-income students and their better-off peers, and high-quality summer learning opportunities can help all children achieve to high levels. Some of California's largest school districts utilize federal Title 1 funds for summer learning programs, and sequestration puts California at risk of losing \$91 million in Title I funding.

"We know definitively that summer learning opportunities can make an enormous difference in students' ability to stay on track and successfully graduate from high school. As policymakers consider the impacts of sequestration, we must recognize summer learning programs are foundational."

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About the Partnership for Children and Youth (PCY): PCY is a California-based nonprofit that has identified and secured more than \$70 million federal and state dollars for low-income students. For the past 15 years, PCY has aggressively advocated to secure federal and state funding to advance what is known to be fundamental to college and career readiness: high-quality summer learning opportunities. Learn more at: <http://partnerforchildren.org/>.

About Jennifer Peck: Peck serves as the Executive Director of Partnership for Children and Youth (PCY) where she works closely with school district leaders in California's largest districts, including Oakland, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Fresno Unified School Districts. Prior to joining PCY, Peck spent eight years as an appointee of President Bill Clinton at the U.S. Department of Education, where she supported the implementation of 21st Century Community Learning Centers – an initiative dedicated exclusively to expanded learning programs. Peck also serves on the boards of the West Contra Costa Public Education Fund and the Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation.