



# Nome Public Schools

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March 30, 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on reductions in Pre-K funding. My name is Shawn Arnold and I am the Superintendent for Nome Public Schools.

Educators within Nome Public Schools share the belief that early childhood education is an important step to be ready for kindergarten. In previous years, early childhood programs in our community were only available to parents who could pay the fees. Currently, our district receives funding from the state. Not having this early childhood money would prevent most of our community's children from attending preschool classes.

Because of these funds and the efforts of our three certified teachers, over 60 students annually are shown to develop better language and social skills, have fewer behavioral problems once they enter school and are 40 percent less likely to need special education services.

Investment in quality child care equals Kindergarten readiness, increased 3rd grade reading proficiency, better graduation rates, reduced need for intervention, less involvement with the juvenile justice system and a ready workforce.

As Alaska's instructional standards have increased, kindergarten has also become more rigorous. The kindergarten that you and I attended years ago is not the same today. This has made early childhood education much more important. Children coming to school with no preschool experience are already at a disadvantage.

Please consider restoring the early childhood funding.

Please feel free to contact me if you need further clarification or information. I can be reached at [sarnold@nomeschools.com](mailto:sarnold@nomeschools.com) or 907-443-6191.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shawn Arnold', written in a cursive style.

Shawn Arnold  
Superintendent  
Nome Public Schools