

David Scott

From: Sen. Donny Olson
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2014 6:24 PM
To: David Scott
Subject: Fwd: Education NOME constituent Ericka Rhodes

Dave,
please respond, thanks - S

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Erika Rhodes <eeaton@alaska.com>
Date: January 25, 2014 at 12:46:58 PM AKST
To: "Senator.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov" <Senator.Donny.Olson@akleg.gov>
Subject: Education

Dear Senator Olson,

I am writing to express my strong opinion against using public monies for private/religious schools.

Public education is THE foundation of a democratic society. All children need a decent education to be able understand and participate in politics even at the most basic level. Diverting money from public education creates a downward spiral: reduced funding causes reduced educational services and options, which then causes reduced satisfaction of public education, which leads to reduced funding, which leads to a continued decline in the quality of public education. The privatization of education creates a system in which only the wealthy have access to excellent teachers and rigorous courses in a variety of subjects. What does everyone else get? whatever they can afford, should they even choose to prioritize education in their budget.

The other thing to remember is that private schools aren't regulated and they have no requirement to accept (and keep) all students. So first of all, why allow public money to go somewhere that has no accountability? And second, what happens if a kid gets kicked out of (or fails out of) private school? The kid transfers to public school, of course, except that his/her parents' tax dollars didn't help pay for it!

I can see the appeal of increasing school choice for students & families, but let's do it within the public school system, and without religion. That should be done at home, in accordance with each family's individual beliefs.

Sincerely,

Erika Rhodes
Nome public school teacher

Nome Education Association president
Lifelong Alaskan resident, educated in AK public schools