

From: [Mary Jo Hazel](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Please fund our Preschool teachers
Date: Saturday, March 28, 2015 10:32:14 AM

Senate Finance Committee,

I am writing to you today to support you in a decision to NOT cut funding for our preschool programs in Nome. As a 1st grade teacher, I see the immediate effects upon the learning potential of students who have had, or not had, a quality preschool learning experience.

Those who have had the experience are ready and willing to take in new information, because they have already had time and opportunity to explore with manipulatives, investigate stories with an effective teacher, and understand the routines and expectations of being in a classroom. Students who have not had this experience, are often in first grade and still learning about classroom routines, how to treat others with respect, and are getting to know mathematical manipulatives, story structure, and beginning listening skills. The students with the quality preschool experience are ready to learn and meet the high expectations in our Alaska Standards, and our students without a quality preschool experience are often left behind! This is simply because they are not prepared to function in school because they have not had a rich, and carefully planned and implemented preschool experience, with a fully qualified teacher.

Please fund our preschool teachers and let the children of Nome, and all of Alaska, start Kindergarten ready to learn and succeed!

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Jo Hazel

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