

From: [Crystal Tobuk](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Early Education Funding
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Months before birth and up to age 5, our children's brains go through a rapid growth. During this time it is important for them to be in an environment that encourages physical, cognitive, and social-emotional growth for development.

Studies have shown that children that do not get this crucial interaction in their first six years will face a lifetime of limited brainpower.

Currently there is a proposed budget cut that will eliminate Alaska's pre-k funding. This funding has allowed our Nome Head Start and Nome Preschool programs to be staffed with certified teachers trained in how to best teach our kids to get them ready for kindergarten and for life.

Studies have proved that children who have attended early education:

- Were less likely to be retained in grade or placed in special education.
- As adults, were more likely to get better jobs and earn more money.
- Were less likely to break laws or participate in other delinquent acts.

We ask that you will continue to fully or at least partially fund Alaska's early education programs. This is the best way to show support for our leaders of the future.

Our kids matter.

Crystal Tobuk
Nome Community Member and Parent of Two