

From: [Kim Erikson](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#)
Subject: Pre-K grant funding
Date: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 9:23:11 PM

I am writing about the pre-k grant that is being cut from Nome, Alaska. We have many children in our community that we need to reach out to here in Nome. If you have been watching and reading the news lately, you can see with all the drug related incidents here that we are in desperate need for a safe and educational place for our children. Many of these children and their families would be lost in the system if we were not here to help them with their education. When we make our home visits at the beginning of the year, we are making a connection with the family. All it takes is for one of the teachers at Head Start to connect with just one of the parents. If we can get one parent to listen or get involved with their child then we know that we will have a success story. We have had many of the same families due to some of the larger family sizes and having sibling after sibling. We are making big changes here in Nome when it comes to educating our young parents and their children. These children are kindergarten ready and they all know what to expect when entering kindergarten. If these children weren't pre educated before entering kindergarten, over half of the year would be spent on learning proper school rules and basic social skills before any real education can happen.

In preschool, we are also taking observations of all children and their learning styles. We are part of the Nome school district; therefore, we are connected to the special education department, which helps us with alternate learning styles and Early Intervention strategies. This helps us get all students ready for kindergarten.

Right now in Nome, we have been educating our children in pre-k for the past 5-6 years and these children are ready for kindergarten and ready to learn. The test scores keep increasing every year. I ask you to please re-instate the pre-k grant to help us help our young families and all of their children. We need the state's monetary support to continue their preschool education so they are ready learners.

Thank you for your support.

Kim Erikson