

Sent: Thu, Feb 2, 2023 8:41 am

Subject: Expansion of voluntary prek meeting today.

Good morning. I am a family childcare provider in rural Goodhue county. I would like to talk about the impact that expanding funding in voluntary prek has on the childcare shortages in Minnesota.

Minnesota childcare providers are allowed a max of 3 children under the age of 2 for licensed childcare. That in a family setting is \$500 a week. Minus taxes is around 300\$ a week for a 70-80 hour work week. Children over 2, which MN allows childcares between 4-8 are being recruited (600-1000 a week of cashflow for a care) for voluntary prek regardless of high need status. This is a massive financial loss to childcares and harmful to the development of children that age.

I spent 8 years on Dover-Eyota school board and would see ALL children encouraged to attend public prek regardless of NEED. I would also see the behavioral costs climb and student achievement lessen.

This is confirmed in our own state auditor report.

<https://www.auditor.leg.state.mn.us/ped/2018/earlychildhoodsum.htm>

When legislators add money to these programs the opposite effect of achievement is happening. "these programs are harming the children they were meant to help the most" Minnesota State Auditor.

Adding \$ to early prek in schools takes away the children ages 2 and up that allows family licensed childcare to cash flow their small businesses and puts us out of business when we can't fill 5-8 slots because they have been monopolized by the public school system without results. In fact kids do WORSE by 3rd grade that attend public preschool than those that don't. Here is research by NPR on this very subject. <https://www.npr.org/2022/02/10/1079406041/researcher-says-rethink-prek-preschool-prekindergarten>

Please reconsider giving money to this subject. When we move all children into earlier prek we tank the daycare industries ability to cash flow increasing the daycare shortages and parental costs as the need to cash flow businesses with less kids raises costs to consumers. More importantly adding money to these prek school programs HURTS kids.

When we do not allow for the social/emotional development of children through small family childcare group settings issues show up later on in behaviors in schools from lack of social/emotional control. We see it in the need for added funding for behavior interventionists and lower test scores. NPR "But after third grade, [they were doing worse than the control group](#). And at the end of sixth grade, they were doing even *worse*. They had lower test scores, were more likely to be in special education, and were more likely to get into trouble in school, including serious trouble like suspensions."

Please reconsider your approach to MN children as it is harming more than helping more than just the kids but families, and the entire daycare industry. Thank you, Molly Hofschulte