

NR!PK BUDGET COMMUNICATION PACKET FOR STAKEHOLDERS

Suggestions for how to use this resource:

This packet includes information and recent data about preschool in Nevada and is intended to be used as a starting place for early childhood providers, advocates, parents, and other stakeholders to build their own communication strategies. Please adapt, modify, and add your own examples or context to the following to meet your communications needs.

Access to high-quality preschool programs like Nevada Ready! State Pre-K (NR!PK) is not just a funding issue but an equity issue.

- When we talk about funding and the number of children who have access to high-quality early childhood programs in Nevada, disparities in equity are revealed. In its best year, NR!PK served only 8.2% of the state's 4-year olds. All public Pre-K funding in the state serves only 27% of the state's 4-year olds. The increasing need for quality Pre-K due to current economic realities—combined with the elimination of key state funding sources (Zoom, Victory)—means that efforts to remedy inequities are vital. The state must work to change policies and priorities that impact the readiness and ultimate achievement and success of under-resourced populations.
- Nevada needs sufficient resources to make high-quality early childhood education more accessible. Every setting should have the resources it requires to meet the needs of its children and families. This includes ensuring equitable access to high-quality higher education and compensation for a qualified early childhood workforce.
- NR!PK provides eligible Nevada 4-year-olds with high-quality, culturally responsive, and inclusive state-funded preschool.
- Access to NR!PK gives Nevada's children—72% of whom live in childcare deserts—opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive before entering the K-12 system.
- Research is clear that access to preschool gives students a far greater chance of succeeding in school and is, therefore, one of the best paths for advancing education equity.

It is so important for Nevada to develop a cost-driven, not budget-driven, formula that truly meets students' needs

COVID and changes to the state student funding formula have made budget planning an even more uncertain and precarious process. Previously, seat costs were based on expenditures resulting in differing and inequitable seat costs among existing sub-grantees and did not include braided funding amounts.

Blending and Braiding to Make Ends Meet?

Did you blend and braid to make ends meet this year?
How did it go?
Give examples in your testimony!

The Office of Early Learning and Development sought to simplify the funding formula by stabilizing the State Pre-K seat cost, which would make funding consistent across all sub-grantees. The total funding for NR!PK in 2019/2020 was \$19.7 million. However, subgrantees were required to braid and incorporate other funding sources (Zoom, Victory, Title I, Head Start, district general funds) to actually serve 3,094 kids. Total allocated and braided funds equaled \$26 million. Braided funding for Pre-K is increasingly unstable due to COVID-related budget shortfalls, and the new Pupil Centered Funding Plan, which rolls categorical funding (Zoom and Victory) into the base per-pupil funding amount.

Consider that the December 1 count for 2019/2020 was 3,094 kids -- dividing \$26 million by 3,094 equals \$8,410. If the seat cost is stabilized at \$8,410 then subgrantees have more certainty about their budget allocations and, in the future, makes advocating for funding more transparent and feasible.

\$19.7 million base funding is NOT the actual cost of State Pre-K.

The table below shows the Dec 1 count for 2019 funded at \$26 million total in the 2nd column. In the 3rd column, the NR!PK allocation of \$19.7 is divided by the \$8,410 stabilized cost. The resulting seat counts illustrate how many seats can be filled without braided funding. **It is essential for legislators to understand that the \$19.7 million base funding is NOT the true cost of State Pre-K.** Use and adapt the information from the table below to reflect your local context.

Nevada Ready! State Pre-K Projected Seat Count for 2021-2022 at \$8,410 and \$19.7 million

Sub-recipients	Dec 1, 2019 Seat Count	Projected seat count based on \$8,410
Carson City School District	132	96
Churchill County School District	85	77
Clark County School District	653	537
Community Services Agency	76	37
Great Basin College	24	28
Humboldt County School District	62	57
Mineral County School District	16	21
Nye County School District	178	148
Pershing County School District	20	21
State Public Charter School Authority	166	148
United Way of Southern Nevada	695	511
Washoe County School District	688	474
White Pine County School District	36	28

Comparing Columns 2 and 3 shows the disparity in seat numbers. There will be a decrease in the number of 4-year-olds served in NR!PK if the program is only funded at \$19.7 million, versus \$26 million which is the current cost of State Pre-K to serve 3,094.

What this means moving forward

- NR!PK is currently funded to serve only 8% of Nevada’s 4-year-old children - just 3,094 out of 37,684
- As of 2021, it costs \$8,410 to provide eligible Nevada children a high-quality NR!PK seat, which is still far lower than the national standard set by NIEER’s 2021 report at \$12,500.
- Nevada ranks 48th in preschool enrollment[1] and is one of the ten least affordable states for center-based infant care? [2]
 - ◆ From ECAC 2018 Early Ed and Care Fact Sheet:
 - Nevada is the least affordable state in the nation for licensed family child care center-based infant care.
 - Nevada is the 8th least affordable state for licensed centers.

To continue serving the same 8% of eligible children next year will require \$26M in funding, an increase from \$19.7M in order to make up for other state and federal funding that is going away. Any decrease in funding will mean far fewer children served next year.

Did you know that if 1,000 seats were added each year to State Pre-K, it would take 15 years to reach 50% of 4-year-olds served? A decrease in funding and seats means that Nevada will continue to fall behind. It is essential that funding for NR!PK continues to grow, not simply be maintained.

The Importance of Preschool

90% of a child’s brain develops by age 5, making the early childhood years a critical window for long-term positive impact. Higher quality environments create sustained learning gains after the child leaves preschool. Knowledge and skills for success in life, in schooling, and in later employment begin building in early childhood.

Why Invest in Early Childhood Services?

An “investment in early learning and development is more efficient and can generate more benefits than costs relative to investment later in the life cycle. (p. 4)” In addition to immediate child and family benefits, high-quality preschool also provides systematic benefits that positively impact spending down the road—children with a strong start in a high-quality early learning environment are less likely to utilize social services in their adult lives, representing savings for state and local governments in the long run. For each dollar spent on preschool, governments are estimated to receive returns on investment of between three and seven dollars. [1]

[1] Yoshikawa, H., Weiland, C., Brooks-Gunn, J., Burchinal, M., Espinosa, L., Gormley, W. T., Ludwig, J., Magnuson, K., Phillips, D., & Zaslow, M (October, 2013) Investing in Our Future: The Evidence Base on Preschool, Society for Research in Child Development, Washington, D.C.

Why High-Quality ECE Matters

When children participate in high-quality early childhood education, they are:

- More likely to experience improved cognitive and social outcomes;
- More likely to graduate from high school;
- Less likely to require remedial education;
- Less likely to commit crimes;
- Less likely to be neglected or abused;
- Less likely to be unemployed;
- Less likely to require public assistance;
- Less likely to become teen parents; and
- Generally healthier and able to be more productive contributors to their local, state, and national economies.

How to Get Involved

The Nevada Ready! State Pre-K budget is Budget 2709 that is scheduled to be approved on Tuesday, April 27th. At 8AM, public opinion will be read and heard before discussions on the budget begin. **This is your chance to make an impact, make your voice heard, and support Nevada's early childhood community.** The link below will take you to the Meeting page:

<http://bit.ly/nv-prek-budget-action>

Agenda to be posted soon.

Don't forget!

Add specific details for your district, teachers, communities, and families.

Examples or quotes from teachers and families (on the reduction of seats or impact of high-quality pre-k) is ideal.

How to Register to Participate in Committee Meetings

Tuesday April 27 - 8 AM

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
AND SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
SUBCOMMITTEES ON K-12/HIGHER
EDUCATION/CIP

Our item is: **Budget Closing 2709**

Your public comment in writing or at meeting is
needed.

OVERVIEW

<http://bit.ly/nv-prek-budget-action>

Find the meeting you want to participate in. You can find meetings listed in several places in NELIS: the home page, the Meetings & Floor Sessions page, or by opening the Committees menu item, selecting a committee, then selecting Meetings.

Select the 'Participate' button to register. You will be taken to a form to fill in your information (much like the paper sign-in sheets we used for in-person meetings), select agenda items you are interested in, note your position on agenda items, indicate whether or not you want to speak, and tell us who you represent. If you would simply like to let the Committee know you are "in the room" as a resource, you do not have to choose the 'I want to speak' option; you also do not have to choose a specific agenda item or position.

If you are registering another person for the meeting, please make sure you are signed out of your NVLeg Account; otherwise, the registration will be linked to you. To sign out, go to the top right menu where you see the "Welcome, username" text, open the dropdown, and choose "Sign out."

If you are a registered lobbyist, please make sure to sign in to your NVLeg Account. This allows us to identify you as a registered lobbyist for the committee.

Submit your registration. Once you complete and submit your registration, you will receive a confirmation screen, as well as an email, with the phone number and meeting ID you will need to call in to at the time of the meeting. This information is not to be shared.

Registering to participate does not guarantee you will get to speak; the amount of testimony taken and who testifies are at the discretion of the Chair.

How to Submit Written Testimony to Committees

<http://bit.ly/nv-prek-budget-action>

Please note that there may be slight variations between houses and/or committees about how or when the committee prefers to receive comments. Refer to the meeting agenda for details specific to the committee.

You may otherwise generally send your written comments to the committee email. Use the Committees menu item, then select the committee to which you'd like to send comments. The committee email is found on the overview tab in a section called Contact Information.

Sample Language for Communications Activities

Do you value preschool for Nevada's kids and want to have your voice heard? Write a letter to your legislator, post on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, testify at a committee hearing!

Email Sample Language:

Dear [Insert Name Here],

I am a parent/teacher/early childhood provider/Nevadan that cares about preschool. Please protect the funding for Nevada State Pre-K.

Pre-K programs and educators have had to supplement the \$19.7 million state funding with over \$6 million dollars simply to "make ends meet." The true cost of Pre-K in Nevada is \$26 million at \$8410 per seat, and if it is funded for less than that, we will not expand services to thousands of Nevada children and families who need it.

Access to high-quality preschool programs like NR!PK is not just a funding issue but an equity issue.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]

Sample Tweets:

→ Access to high-quality preschool programs like NR!PK is not just a funding issue but an equity issue. Our children deserve more. Make your voice heard:

<http://bit.ly/nv-prek-budget-action>

#edequity #nvleg #nevadaready



- NV needs a cost-driven (not budget-driven) Pre-K funding formula that truly meets students' needs. Our children deserve more. Make your voice heard:
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#edequity #nvleg #nevadaready



- The actual cost of NV Pre-K is \$26M @ \$8410/seat. If it's funded for less than that, many children who need it will lose access. Our children deserve more. Make your voice heard:
<http://bit.ly/nv-prek-budget-action>
#edequity #nvleg #nevadaready



Sample Facebook Post:

Access to high-quality preschool programs like Nevada Ready! State Pre-K (NR!PK) is not just a funding issue but an equity issue.

Nevada needs a cost-driven (not budget-driven) Pre-K funding formula that truly meets Pre-K students' needs. The true cost of Pre-K in Nevada is \$26 million at \$8410 per seat, and if it is funded less than that, we will not expand services to thousands of Nevada children and families who need it. Get involved in the process and say so:
<http://bit.ly/nv-prek-budget-action>

Reporting Your Impact

Did you take action in the form of social media, media, letters, committee meeting participation, or another activity?

Please email Patti Oya poya@doe.nv.gov about what action you took and what impact you had so we can keep the whole Pre-K community informed. We'd like to hear about social media engagement metrics and replies, letters, email responses, committee question responses, and any other response that your activity generated.