



Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children

An Affiliate of **naeyc**

April 26, 2021

Senate Committee on Finance
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means

Re: Budget 2709 – Office of Early Learning and Development

Dear Subcommittees on K-12/Higher Education/CIP

The Nevada Association for the Education of Young Children (NevAEYC) promotes high-quality early learning for all children, birth through age 8, throughout Nevada. NevAEYC believes that sufficient resources are needed to make high-quality early childhood education more accessible for families with young children. Access to high-quality early childhood education provides children with a greater chance of succeeding in school and one of the best paths for advancing education equity in Nevada.

The Nevada Ready! State Pre-K Program (NR!PK) provides eligible families with 4-year-olds with high-quality, culturally response, and inclusive early childhood education. During the past biennium, the NR!PK program received \$19.7 million to support 3,094 children; however, the true cost was \$26 million. NR!PK programs incorporated other funding to support the children during the past year. The blending and braiding of funds is unstable for NR!PK programs, particularly due to COVID-related budget shortfalls and the new Pupil Centered Funding Plan, which will take funds used previously for NR!PK and transfer the funds into the per-pupil funding amount.

During this past year, the Office of Early Learning and Development sought to stabilize the per seat cost for NR!PK programs. Based on the true cost at \$26 million and continuing to provide serves to 3,094 children, the per seat cost would equal \$8,410.

NevAEYC supports the stabilization of the per seat cost at \$8,410 and continued funding at \$26 million per year. By doing so, NR!PK programs have more certainty about budget allocations each year, provides equitable per seat cost across programs and, in the future, the stabilization will make advocating for funding more transparent and feasible.

Sincerely,

John Cregg
NevAEYC Executive Director