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May 30, 2014

Mr. Rick Combs, LCB Director  
Legislative Counsel Bureau  
401 S. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Mr. Combs:

The attached most recent complete report and executive summary shows Nevada's continued progress towards establishing high quality Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs. The report's findings continue to prove the short- and long-term value of high-quality preschool, and provide further proof of the benefits of these programs being available to all 3- and 4-year-olds, especially for those in ELL and/or low-income families.

Assembly Bill 579 of the 2011 Nevada State Legislative Session continued funding at the same funding level of \$3,338,875 for fiscal years 2011-12 and 2012-13. These Early Childhood Education projects succeeded in initiating, expanding, and implementing early learning programs throughout the State of Nevada. As directed by legislation, the Nevada Department of Education conducted an annual and longitudinal evaluation study of the effectiveness of the program. As required, the attached *Nevada Early Childhood Education (ECE) Program 2012-2013 Evaluation Report* has been prepared in consultation with Pacific Research Associates. **Please note:** There will be no evaluation report next year (FY 2013-14), due to the change in evaluation effective from the 2013 Legislative session.

Key facts and findings from the report include:

- Children achieved significant learning gains in preschool, better preparing Nevada children for kindergarten.
- The program met or exceeded all six program outcome indicators on the developmental progress of children and parent involvement.
- The Nevada State PreK program model continues to meet seven out of ten national, research-based quality indicators for early childhood programs as determined by the National Institute for Early Childhood Research (NIEER) and has not received any increase in funds since 2009.
- The Program:
  - Served just over one percent of the estimated three to four- year old populations in Nevada;
  - Served 44% of children learning English as a Second Language,
  - Had over 1,200 children on the waiting list.

According to a recent press release from NIEER, Nevada continues to rank near the bottom of 41 states with pre-K programs on enrollment of 4-year-olds at 36<sup>th</sup>. Level-funded since 2008-2009, Nevada spent less money per child during 2012-2013 than the prior year adjusting for inflation, ranking 33<sup>rd</sup> on this measure nationally. Despite limited funding, the program continues to meet high-quality benchmarks, as noted above.

If you have further questions or want more information on the Nevada Early Childhood Education projects, please contact Anna Severens, Early Childhood Education Coordinator, at [aseverens@doe.nv.gov](mailto:aseverens@doe.nv.gov), or at (775) 687-9248.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dale Erquiaga".

Dale A.R. Erquiaga,  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Enclosures

*An Equal Opportunity Agency*