

From: [Kayla Thao](#)
To: [Greg Weiner](#)
Subject: FW: Support for Early Learning in St. Paul
Date: Tuesday, July 18, 2023 9:53:50 AM

Can you please add this?

From: Maria Snider <maria.rose.snider@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2023 12:56 PM
To: Rebecca Noecker <Rebecca.Noecker@ci.stpaul.mn.us>
Subject: Support for Early Learning in St. Paul

Think Before You Click: This email originated **outside** our organization.

Hello Councilmember Noecker,

My name is Maria Snider. I am the Director of Rainbow Child Development Center in St. Paul (605 Como Ave). My mom opened Rainbow in 1998 because as a Head Start Family Advocate, she saw first hand the need for quality, affordable child care. While our state has come a long way, we still have a long way to go to meet the needs of families in St. Paul.

I was so excited to see the council is voting Wednesday to put early childhood on the ballot in St. Paul. As a longtime child care provider in St. Paul, I see the need everyday. About 90% of the families we serve are living at or below 185% of poverty. Every week we turn families away for their inability to pay, because their county case was closed, because their scholarship was spent...the list goes on. There are so many barriers St. Paul families with young children face to accessing care with cost being #1. This resolution to fund early childhood in St. Paul would be a dream come true--to increase access for families, provide early learning stability for children, improve workforce participation, and the list goes on.

I hope to see early learning in the general election ballot next year.

Thank you for your consideration,

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Maria Snider
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