Minnesota Department of Education

Dear Parents:

Congratulations! You're enrolling in one of Minnesota's leading early childhood programs for your young child! You are taking the next step on their path of learning and development and the school system is there to support you as you request each step of the way.

Your school district is requesting personally identifying data about your family that is similar to the same data for students enrolled in kindergarten through 12th grade. Data will always be handled and protected by state and federal education data privacy laws.

Only aggregated information will be published that does not identify individual children. The information from this data will help Minnesota Department of Education show how investments in young children pays out in the future as a way to increase reading and math scores as well as leading to lifelong success.

Other programs may be of interest to your family and friends include the list below. Connect with the staff in your program for the best local connections or search online.

Early Childhood Screening – Screening is a brief, simple procedure used to identify potential health or developmental problems in infants and young children. Screening in early childhood promotes positive child health and developmental outcomes.

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) – ECFE is based on the idea that the family provides a child's first and most significant learning environment and parents are a child's first and most important teachers.

School Readiness – School Readiness is a public school program available to Minnesota children, age 3 years to kindergarten enrollment who meet certain eligibility requirements. The goal of School Readiness is to help preschoolers enter kindergarten with the skills and behaviors necessary to be successful in future learning.

Early Head Start/Head Start – Head Start is a federal program that promotes the school readiness of children ages birth to five from low-income families. Head Start programs provide comprehensive services to children and their families.

Also, <u>Minnesota Parents Know</u> (http://www.parentsknow.state.mn.us/parentsknow/index.html) and <u>Mom Enough</u> (https://www.facebook.com/MomEnough) are also options available to you as you raise your children in today's online world. If you have any questions on these or other early childhood topics, please contact <u>MDE.ELS@state.mn.us</u> for more information.