

State Testimony SB2012

My name is Mary Martin, and I am the Elementary Principal at Park River Area School. I am in support of SB2012 and the continued funding of the Best in Class Grant in North Dakota. This is our second year participating with Best in Class and the opportunities the grant has provided are meaningful towards enhancing the learning experiences for our PreK students.

Part of the Best in Class program involves working with an Early Childhood Coach. Our coach has done an amazing job. We have been guided through reflective evaluations of current programming and have been able to participate in ongoing collaboration to assess student needs and determine the most appropriate ways to address them. Our coach has been able to provide new perspectives and ideas to enhance our program and the grant funding has provided resources to help provide them. As a result, students are immersed in a learning environment with enhanced opportunities to develop skills that the ND Early Learning Standards outline and that will be essential for students' school and long term success.

Another part of the Best in Class program involves professional development. Our staff have been able to participate in ongoing training that supports their instructional and assessment practices. With intentional plans to build on the strengths of early learners, students are continually involved in exploration and meaningful experiences that build multiple areas of development simultaneously. Best in Class programming clearly strives to strengthen practices that prepare young children for success.

Investing in our future involves supporting those that support our future, our children. Continued funding of the Best in Class programming will help ensure that ND students build necessary skills in their most critical years, from birth to age five. Please continue to support Best in Class for our future.

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