

Ensuring education equity

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Fought and successfully settled the Kasayulie and Moore lawsuits, focused on remedying unfair distribution of both physical (school buildings) and educational resources;
- Moved over \$2 billion dollars into new school construction and renovation in rural Alaska, leveraging legislative action through the Kasayulie litigation;
- Developed the Rural Schools Construction mechanism to ensure rural schools receive their fair share of state school construction funds and continue to ensure its usage;
- Successfully defended and expanded voluntary Pre-K programs across the state;
- Stopped efforts to increase the minimum school enrollment;
- Established opportunities for Regional Learning Centers and tripled reimbursement for students in these centers;
- In 2015, launched Ed Connector, an interactive online portal designed to enhance school district administrative capacity and increase leadership collaboration. Ed Connector provides access to existing and emerging education resources and research, while also providing opportunities for sharing and collaboration among school and district leaders, EED, University of Alaska, and support providers;
- Our Educator Quality and Quantity (EQQ) work presented a model for change in the Alaska education system to increase the number of Alaskan teachers and administrators, improve their preparation, and to retain them longer. A pilot study is currently being conducted with five school districts to inform recommendations for improving educator workforce satisfaction and increase retention.

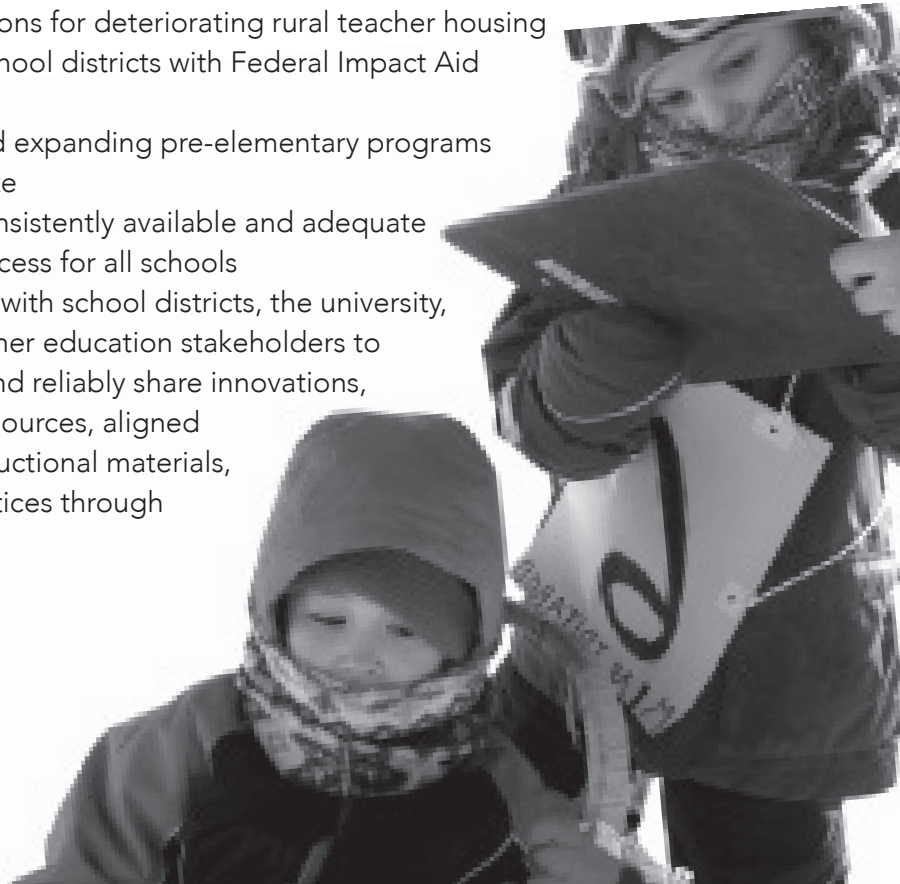
The Coalition for Education Equity is a member-based, nonprofit organization, ***dedicated to ensuring all Alaska children have a meaningful opportunity to be educated.***

Founded in the 1990s as the Citizens for the Educational Advancement of Alaska's Children (or CEAAC), we worked for over a decade to address inadequacies in Alaska schools through the courts and legislative activity.

Today, Coalition for Education Equity represents Alaska school districts, organizations, and individuals concerned about the quality and breadth of educational opportunities available to Alaska's children. We continue to advocate for equity and adequacy in education across Alaska, and use research, policy development, and partnerships to advance solutions to performance issues in our schools, while still protecting the gains made through litigation.

CURRENT WORK

- Securing predictable, consistent, and adequate funding for education
- Continuation of stable, accessible, and equitable funding for school construction and major maintenance
- Research and policy development around issues impacting recruitment and retention of quality teachers
- Seeking solutions for deteriorating rural teacher housing
- Supporting school districts with Federal Impact Aid funding
- Sustaining and expanding pre-elementary programs across the state
- Expanding consistently available and adequate broadband access for all schools
- Collaborating with school districts, the university, DEED, and other education stakeholders to consistently and reliably share innovations, developed resources, aligned curricula, instructional materials, and best practices through Ed Connector



All of our children have the right to a public education.

WE BELIEVE

Our state must ensure adequate investment in Alaska's public education system and public schools. Our state budget must not be balanced on the backs of our children and our schools. We seek to ensure that education funding sources are reliable and adequate, and that funding decisions are made in a timely manner that enables school districts to plan efficiently and responsibly.

Pre-elementary programs are essential to ensuring our children are ready for kindergarten and improving school performance. We seek to sustain and expand pre-elementary funding so that all Alaska's children have a strong foundation when they start kindergarten.

Recruiting and retaining quality teachers has a significant impact on student outcomes, and teachers who are prepared in Alaska are much more likely to stay. We seek to reduce the challenges that lead to teacher turnover and expand the practices that lead great teachers to stay.

Broadband access is an equity issue for our schools. Improving broadband access for our communities and schools opens up opportunities for expanded curricular choices and access to high quality instruction. This issue is not about technology; it's about extending the benefit of great teachers.

Keeping small schools open is vital to our communities and enables our children to obtain an education while being supported by their connection to their family, community, and culture. We support many solutions that ensure our small schools are able to stay open and serve the children in Alaska's villages, including protecting the small school minimum, improving broadband access, exploring proportional funding of schools, and encouraging collaboration across districts.

It is our job to make sure we don't fail our children and to make sure we live up to the values our state was founded upon and holds dear.

Equitable, reliable funding of school construction and major maintenance ensures all Alaska children have safe facilities in which to learn. We seek to ensure that the REAA Small Schools construction fund is fully utilized by qualified districts, and to permit the construction fund to be used for major maintenance projects, which will reduce deterioration of schools and save the state millions of dollars in future full school replacement costs.



Photo courtesy of LKSD Journalism

Coalition for Education Equity is a member-based, non-profit organization that uses research, policy development and advocacy to advance solutions to performance issues in Alaska schools.

Our work is made possible predominantly through membership from our school district and corporate members.

Learn more about us at www.ceequity.org.

If you're interested in becoming a member, please contact Sarah Sledge at sarah@ceequity.org.