

January 26, 2017

To Whom This May Concern,

Please find attached a chart outlining the education history of my three school-aged children. The information shows an aggressive and earnest attempt to locate educational programs, methodologies, tools, techniques, etc., to help my students learn to read. We tried private, public, traditional, Montessori and Waldorf methods and philosophies. We tried schools in the Anchorage School District and MatSu Borough School District. After years of academic trauma we have settled in nicely with a personalized and individual approach to education at home. My three children are thriving socially and emotionally and progressing academically as we erase years of misguided instruction. I am determined to keep their self-esteem intact as they "inhibit" incorrect teaching methods while incorporating effective learning models.

As a family, we support HB64 and sincerely hope our personal story compels you to end the trail of tears for thousands of children Alaska schools are failing. We realize our family will not benefit from the task force nor any future legislation as our time in the system has expired. If laws had been in place and enforced, my children would have benefitted significantly from early screening, early identification, and early intervention up to grade three. Years of frustration would have been avoided if screening, identification, and intervention had been policy for the school districts they encountered. The critical point for Alaska's students is training all relevant educational staff in the use of evidence-based screening and identification instruments; and identification of evidence-based, multi-sensory, direct, explicit, structured, and sequential approaches to instruction of students affected by dyslexia. Our family's journey is a prime example of what our schools lack.

We remain optimistic that the next generation of children will travel a more appropriate and enriching educational path. After all, it is the birthright of all Alaskans to have an equal opportunity to learn to read.

Thank you for your support,



Lisa R. Conner
Anchorage, Alaska

907-244-2013

email: lisa@lisaconner.com

	Casey (17)	Aaron (13)	Allyson (11)
PK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anchorage Montessori School (Anchorage/Private) • Pacific Northern Academy (Anchorage/Private) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anchorage Montessori School (Anchorage/Private) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anchorage Montessori School (Anchorage/Private) • Nanuq Montessori School (Eagle River/Private)
K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bayshore Elementary School (Anchorage/Public) • Kumon Learning Center (Anchorage/Private) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homestead Elementary School (Eagle River/Public) • Anchorage Montessori School (Anchorage/Private) • Professional Speech Therapy (Anchorage/Private) • Kumon Learning Center (Anchorage/Private) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birchtree Charter School (Palmer/Public)
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kincaid Elementary School (Anchorage/Public) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeschool (1st grade first time, Eagle River) • Professional Speech Therapy (Anchorage/Private) • Birchtree Charter School (1st grade repeated, Palmer/Public) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birchtree Charter School (Palmer/Public)
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anchorage School District Summer School (Anchorage/Public) • Anchorage Montessori School (Anchorage/Private) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cottonwood Creek Elementary (IEP created, Palmer/Public) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birchtree Charter School (Palmer/Public) • Winterberry Charter School (Anchorage/Public) • O'Malley Elementary School (IEP created, Anchorage/Public)
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anchorage Montessori School (Anchorage/Private) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MatSu School District Summer School (Wasilla/Public) • Cottonwood Creek Elementary (Wasilla/Public) • Winterberry Charter School (Anchorage/Public) • O'Malley Elementary School (Anchorage/Public) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer School Professional Tutoring (Anchorage/Private) • O'Malley Elementary School (Anchorage/Public)
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homestead Elementary School (Eagle River/Public) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • O'Malley Elementary School (Anchorage/Public) • Homeschool (Anchorage) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oceanview Elementary School (Anchorage/Public)
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeschool (Eagle River) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oceanview Elementary School (Anchorage/Public) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeschool • Professional Tutoring (Anchorage/Private)
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeschool (Eagle River) • Birchtree Charter School (Palmer/Public) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeschool • Professional Tutoring (Anchorage/Private) 	

	Casey (17)	Aaron (13)	Allyson (11)
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birchtree Charter School (Palmer/Public) 		
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Birchtree Charter School (Palmer/Public) • Winterberry Charter School (Anchorage/Public) • Hanshew Middle School (Anchorage/Public) 		
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South High School (Anchorage/Public) 		
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeschool (Anchorage) 		
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeschool (Anchorage) 		