

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



REPRESENTATIVE GERAN TARR

HB 260

State Education Policy on Child Development and Adversity

Sponsor Statement 2.24.20

Nearly two-thirds of adults surveyed in Alaska report having experienced adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). ACEs include physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, physical and emotional neglect, and household dysfunction. Experiences in the first years of life may influence the biology of the human body in ways that, in turn, influence the person's physical and mental health over their lifetime. There is a strong correlation between the number of ACEs and a person's risk for disease and negative health behaviors, including suicide attempts, cancer, ischemic heart disease, diabetes, smoking, substance abuse, depression, obesity, unplanned pregnancies, workplace absenteeism, lower educational achievement, and lower wages.

The Alaska Mental Health Board and the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse have estimated the direct and indirect cost to the state of ACEs in six categories (adult Medicaid, current smoking, diabetes, binge drinking, arthritis, and obesity) to be approximately \$774 million annually¹. Life expectancy of a person with six or more ACEs is reduced by 20 years. Early childhood offers a unique window of opportunity to prevent and mitigate the effects of ACEs on a child's brain and body.

It is more effective and less costly to positively influence the architecture of a young child's developing brain than to later attempt to correct poor learning, health, and behaviors. Early intervention and investment in early childhood and effective, trauma-informed services and systems for people throughout the course of life are important strategies to achieve a lasting foundation for a more prosperous and sustainable state through investing in human capital.

House Bill 260 adds to state education policy that “it is the policy of the state to acknowledge and take into account the principles of early childhood and youth brain development and, whenever possible, consider the concepts of early adversity, toxic stress, childhood trauma, and the promotion of resilience through protective relationships, supports, self-regulation, and services.” HB 260 creates consistent policy with the Departments of Education and Health and Social Services (AS 47.050.060) and addresses an area of public policy where we’ve been penny wise and pound foolish.

¹ <http://dhss.alaska.gov/abada/ace-ak/Documents/ACEsEconomicCosts-AK.pdf>

HOUSE BILL NO. 260

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE TARR

Introduced: 2/19/20

Referred: Education, Health & Social Services

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to the state education policy."**

2 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 * **Section 1.** AS 14.03.015 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

4 (b) It is the policy of the state to acknowledge and take into account the
5 principles of early childhood and youth brain development and, whenever possible,
6 consider the concepts of early adversity, toxic stress, childhood trauma, and the
7 promotion of resilience through protective relationships, supports, self-regulation, and
8 services.

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2020 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 260
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB260-EED-ELC-2-21-20
Title: STATE EDUCATION POLICY: EARLY
CHILDHOOD
Sponsor: TARR
Requester: House Education

Department: Department of Education and Early Development
Appropriation: Education Support and Administrative Services
Allocation: Early Learning Coordination
OMB Component Number: 2912

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2021 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2021 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2021	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2020) cost: 0.0 (separate supplemental appropriation required)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2021) cost: 0.0 (separate capital appropriation required)

Does the bill create or modify a new fund or account? No
(Supplemental/Capital/New Fund - discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version/comments:

Not applicable; initial version.

Prepared By: Deb Riddle, Division Operations Manager
Division: Innovation and Education Excellence
Approved By: Lacey Sanders, Administrative Services Director
Agency: Office of Management and Budget

Phone: (907)465-2892
Date: 02/21/2020
Date: 02/21/20

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 260

Analysis

This bill adds a new subsection to AS 14.03.015, State education policy, that acknowledges early childhood and youth brain development, and considers adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) that include early adversity, toxic stress, and childhood trauma and the advancement of trauma-engaged practices that include protective relationships, supports, self-regulation, and services that promote resilience for all children.

There is no fiscal impact to the Department of Education and Early Development under this legislation.

- › [SB 105 Overview](#)
- › [Overview of Programs](#)
- › [Resources and Links](#)
- › [Training](#)

DHSS Policy on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and childhood brain development

The 30th Legislature passed SB 105; which among other health care policies included statutory language updating the state policy related to children found in AS 47.05.060.

The Department of Health and Social Services, through the language in SB 105, has developed a policy statement to acknowledge and take into account the principles of early childhood and youth brain development. The policy statement ensures DHSS will act in a trauma-informed manner.

As DHSS provides broad-based safety nets; it is critical that all employees understand the impacts of trauma, but also recognize that the services our department provides can help mitigate factors related to ACEs.

Policy

Overview of ACEs:

ACEs are "adverse childhood experiences" that impair development of children's brains and bodies so profoundly that the effects persist throughout a person's life and are passed on to the next generation. Studies have shown that ACEs can have significant impacts on both physical and mental health throughout a person's life. 2 out of 3 Alaskan adults have an ACE score of 1 or more.¹

DHSS is made up of eight divisions. Many of them are well-versed in ACEs and are trauma informed in their day-to-day activities. The Overview of Programs tab goes into more detail on what each division has implemented.

Watch this video: ACE's Primer featuring educational media from Paper Tigers and Resilience: The Biology of Stress & the Science of Hope:



04:59

¹ *Adverse Childhood Experiences: Overcoming ACEs in Alaska. Prepared for the Alaska Mental Health Board and the Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. Available at: <http://dhss.alaska.gov/abada/ace-ak>*

Health and Social Services

Office of the Commissioner
Alaska Pioneer Homes
Alaska Psychiatric Institute
Behavioral Health
Finance and Management Services
Health Care Services
Juvenile Justice
Office of Children's Services
Public Assistance
Public Health
Senior and Disabilities Services

Related Links

Addressing Gaps in the Crisis Psychiatric Response System (pdf)
Alaska Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
Programs
Resources
Training
Alaska's Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Plan
Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council (AECCC)
Health Emergency Response Operations (HERO)
Medicaid State Plan
Newsroom
Office of Rate Review
Office of Substance Misuse and Addiction Prevention
Online Public Notices
Program Integrity
Publications

[Contacts](#) [Accessibility](#) [Public Notices](#) [Staff](#)
[Webmaster](#)

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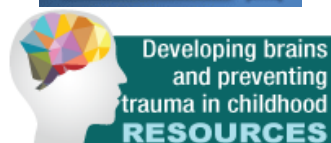
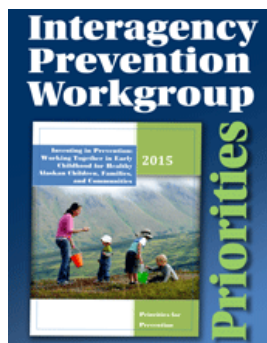

[Home](#) [Divisions and Agencies](#) [Services](#) [News](#) [Contact Us](#)
[Health and Social Services](#) > [Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse](#) > [Adverse Childhood Experiences-AK](#)


News and Events

New regional ACEs data available. Click graphic below:



[>> Archives](#)



Adverse Childhood Experiences in Alaska

"Adverse Childhood Experiences" (ACEs) are stressful or traumatic experiences, including abuse, neglect, witnessing domestic violence, or growing up with substance abuse, mental illness, or a parent in jail.

Childhood trauma may lead to serious health problems that last into adulthood and even future generations, researchers have found. The cause: Children's stress hormones can reach toxic levels that interfere with their brain development. **It doesn't have to be this way.**

The good news is that people can recover. Preventing ACEs and building resilience in Alaskans who have experienced them has the potential to pay enormous dividends, from less use of state health and social services to increasing the competitiveness of Alaska's work force.

Communities and agencies statewide are already using ACE research. Homer teens lead sessions on building resilience, and schools from Kotzebue to Juneau use the finding to better understand students' behavior and support student achievement. Doctors are screening for ACEs and incorporating that knowledge into their health care recommendations. Juvenile justice professionals have become trauma-informed. From public safety to public health to corporate Alaska - ACEs matter - and more Alaskans are becoming informed.

For more information about ACEs and ways to prevent them, see this report **"Adverse Childhood Experiences - Overcoming ACEs in Alaska."** The report summarizes medical research and compares Alaska with other states. The report also discusses social and economic impacts, and strategies to reduce harm. For more detail, see an [overview of ACEs in Alaska](#) with data from the 2013 Alaska Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.

The ACE Study is an ongoing research collaboration between U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Kaiser Permanente, based on an initial groundbreaking study between 1995-1997.

> [Detailed Results of the Alaska ACE Study \(pdf\), \(pptx\)](#)

Click graphic below to view the YouTube video, ***Saving Brains, A Grand Challenge***, produced by Dr. Mike Evans. (9:12 mins.)

[Saving Brains, A Grand Challenge](#)

Related Links

[The Adverse Childhood Experiences Study](#)

[CDC-Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[SAMSHA](#)

[Office for Victims of Crime](#)

Resources

[Self-Regulation and Co-Regulation Resources](#)

- > [OPRE Duke-Self-regulation](#)
- > [OPRE Duke-Co-regulation](#)
- > [Slide Presentation](#)

[Extensive Information about Alaskan Children's ACEs](#)

[Updated Alaskan ACEs Handouts](#)

[Economic Costs of ACEs in Alaska](#)

[Epigenetics](#)

[Strengthening Families](#)

[Protecting the Childhood Brain](#)

[Alaskan Protective Factors \(pptx\) \(pdf\)](#)

[ANTHC Healthy Families Resources](#)

Frequently asked Questions (FAQs)