

Office of Rep. Wool
May 5, 2021

Pursuant to questions asked during the Senate Finance hearing May 3 on House Bill 100 related to extension of the TVEP program, here are answers regarding the Amundsen Educational Center program funding. These responses were provided by Mike Swanson, who is the Executive Director of Amundsen Education Center.

1. Of the total funding received by Amundsen, what percentage of your operations are funded through TVEP?

In FY20, TVEP accounted for 28% of AEC's total funding. This is because we sold two houses last year, one which was carryover from the year before. If that house was removed from the equation the % of TVEP funds in relation to gross income is actually higher. So far in FY21, TVEP has accounted for 34% of AEC's total funding. AEC relies on TVEP funds for our annual operating budget and believe this is sustainable as TVEP funds are a % in statute of State Unemployment and do not come from UGF revenue.

2. Does any of the TVEP funding Amundsen receives support faith-based education?

Not one penny of TVEP funding has ever been spent on faith-based education. AEC is a faith-based organization, but we are open to students of any faith or no faith. We are diligent to ensure that no TVEP funds are utilized for sectarian activities.

3. What region do Amundsen participants primarily come from?

Nearly every student that has participated in our Residential Construction program over the last 20 years has been from rural Alaska and off the road system. Nearly all have been Alaska Native. Several of our graduates work in bush Alaska today as contractors and construction workers.

Hopefully the last two bullet points explain our mission statement: "Vocational Training in a Christian Community for the People of Rural Alaska."