

Alaska Career Guide Demonstration Project House Education Committee

Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD)

Department of Education and Early Development (DEED)

Paloma Harbour, DOLWD Employment and Training Services Director

Dr. Monica Goyette, DEED Innovation and Education Excellence Director

March 25, 2026



The Alaska Career Guide Model

- The Alaska Career Guide model ensures that every participating senior graduates with a clear, actionable postsecondary plan.
- Partnered with rootEd Alliance, a philanthropic organization focused on supporting rural high school seniors. Alaska was the fifth state to join the alliance.



Leveraging Existing State Resources

The Career Guide model aligns and activates existing state systems to support senior transition planning. This model ensures students actively use state resources during senior year rather than encountering them after graduation.



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Department of Labor and Workforce Development

- Monthly student Lunch & Learn sessions highlighting postsecondary & workforce pathways
- AlaskaJobs system for resume development, interview preparation, and job search
- Continued access to employment tools after graduation



Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

- Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS) career exploration platform
- Alaska Performance Scholarship guidance
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion support and financial aid navigation



Department of Education and Early Development

- Connecting existing K-12 Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs to post-secondary opportunities
- Statewide professional development support
- Data tracking and Key Performance Indicator (KPI) monitoring
- Dedicated CTE funding to support implementation of the model



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
& WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
& EARLY DEVELOPMENT

Alaska Career Guide Partners *FY2026*

8

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

20

SCHOOLS

208

SENIORS

Bristol Bay Regional Career and Technical Consortium (BBRCTE)

Bristol Bay Borough School District
Dillingham City Schools
Lake and Peninsula School District
Southwest Region School District

Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD)

Galena City School District
Nenana City School District

Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI)

Annette Island City Schools
Hydaburg City Schools

Core Components of the rootEd Model

Structured Senior Advising Cycle

Minimum of two one-on-one meetings throughout the senior year.



Postsecondary Application Support

Hands-on support for college, training, apprenticeship, military, and job applications.



Dedicated Career Guides

Each senior is supported by a trained guide and team working together to track progress and ensure a clear plan.

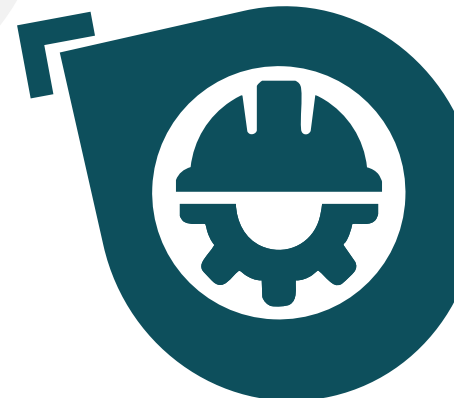
Financial Aid Navigation

FAFSA* completion, Alaska Performance Scholarship, and scholarship guidance.



Career Exposure

Connections to employers, training providers, and regional opportunities.



Who Can Serve as a Career Guide

The model is flexible and locally driven. Career Guides may be:



SCHOOL DISTRICT

Certificated/Non-Certificated



SCHOOL DISTRICT CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

Certificated/Non-Certificated



PARTNER ORGANIZATION

Tribal Entity



STATE AGENCY

Department of Labor & Workforce Development

FY2025 Year 1 Survey Results

Overall satisfaction across stakeholders was strong in Year 1 implementation:

85%

of participating students reported being satisfied with their Career Guide.

100%

of Career Guides reported feeling valued and supported within the model.

94%

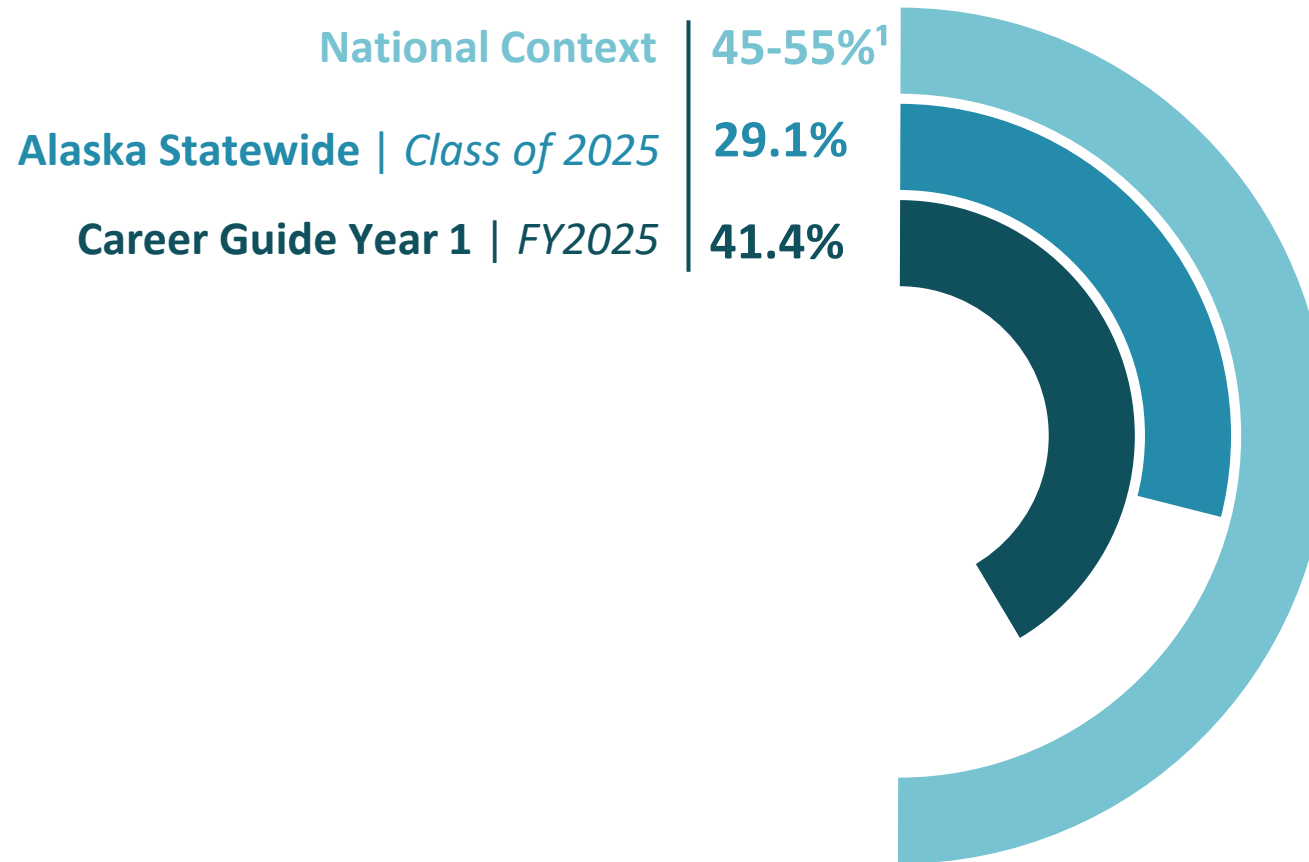
of administrators/counselors reported satisfaction with the Career Guide's work.

These results indicate strong acceptance of the model at the student, advisor, and school leadership levels during the first year of implementation.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The FAFSA is the required application for federal financial aid, state financial aid (including the Alaska Performance Scholarship), and most institutional aid. Completion is a critical early milestone in postsecondary planning.

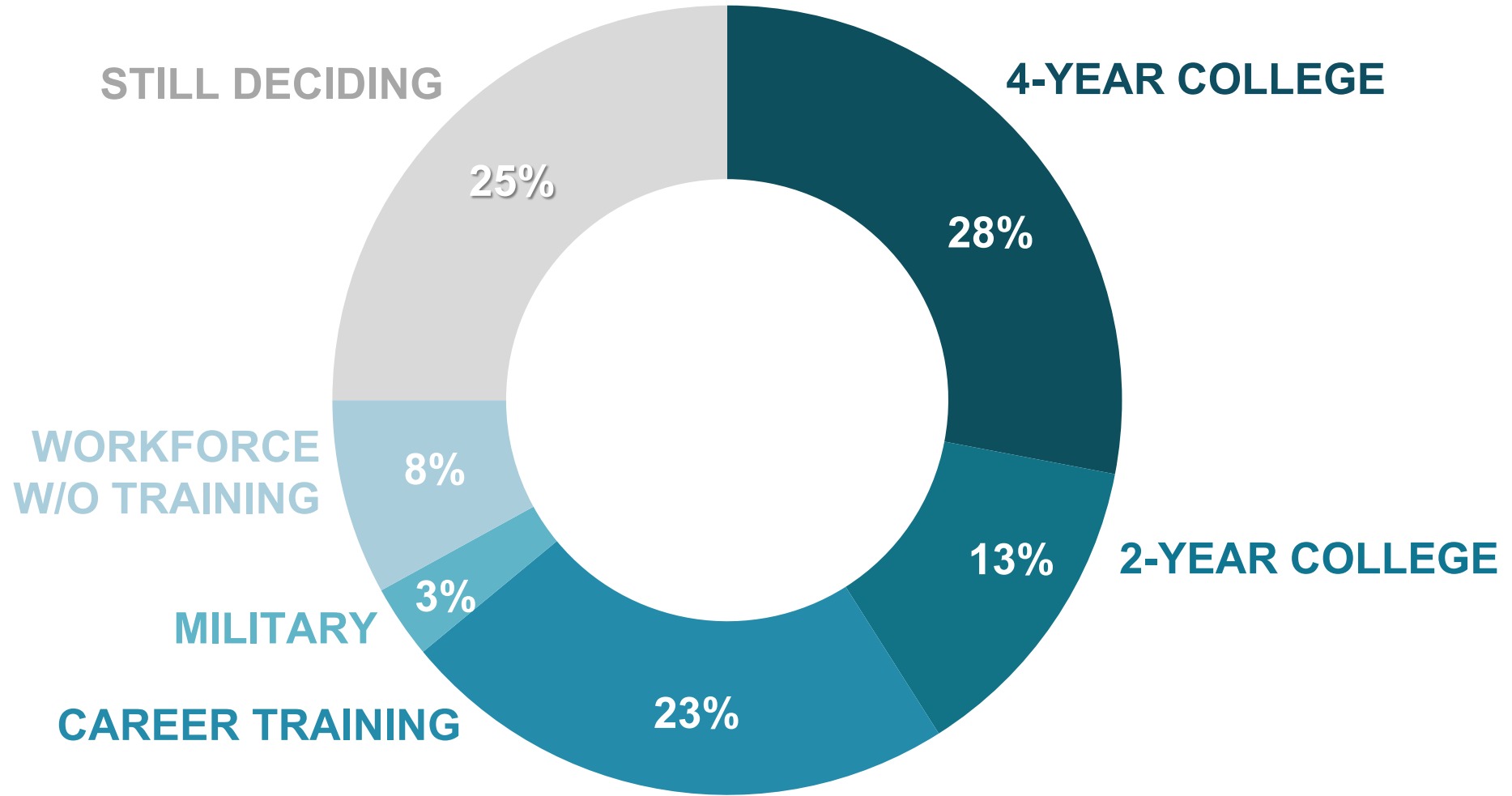
FAFSA COMPLETION RATE



+12%

Increase compared to the statewide rate.

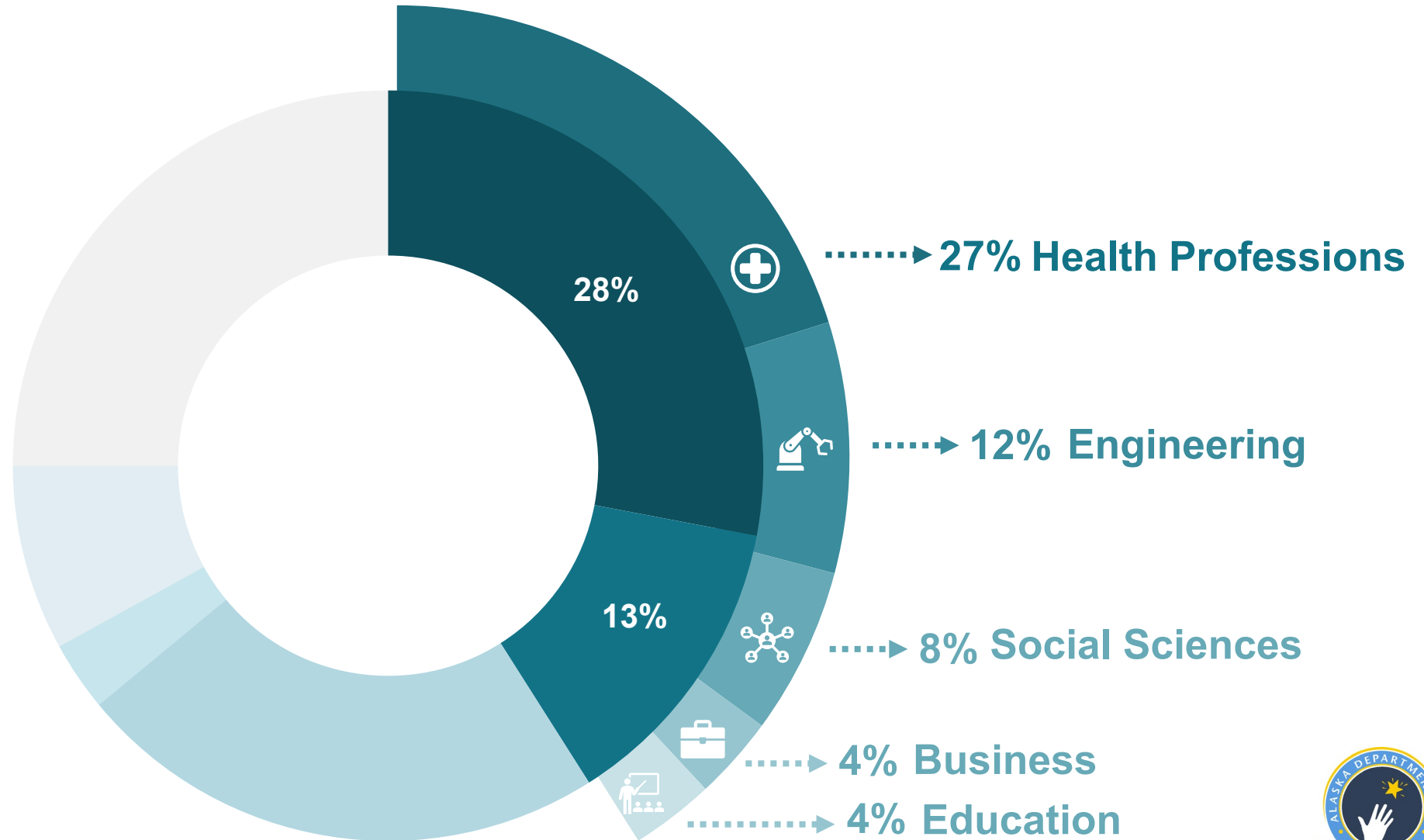
2025 rootEd Alaska Students by Pathway



67% of rootEd Alaska students are planning to pursue further training (college, career training, or military).

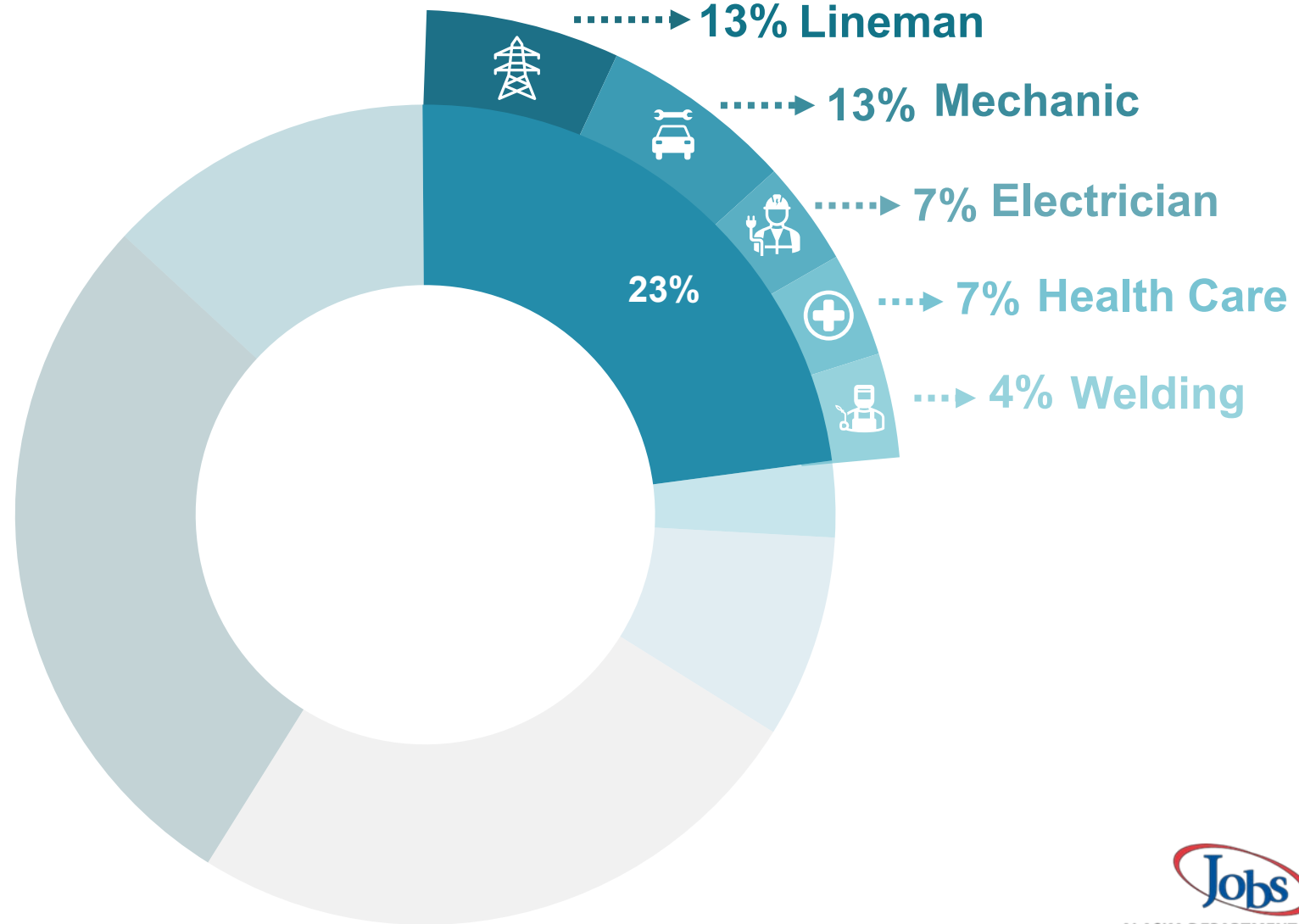
2025 rootEd Alaska Students by Pathway

TOP 5 COLLEGE MAJORS (2- AND 4- YEAR)

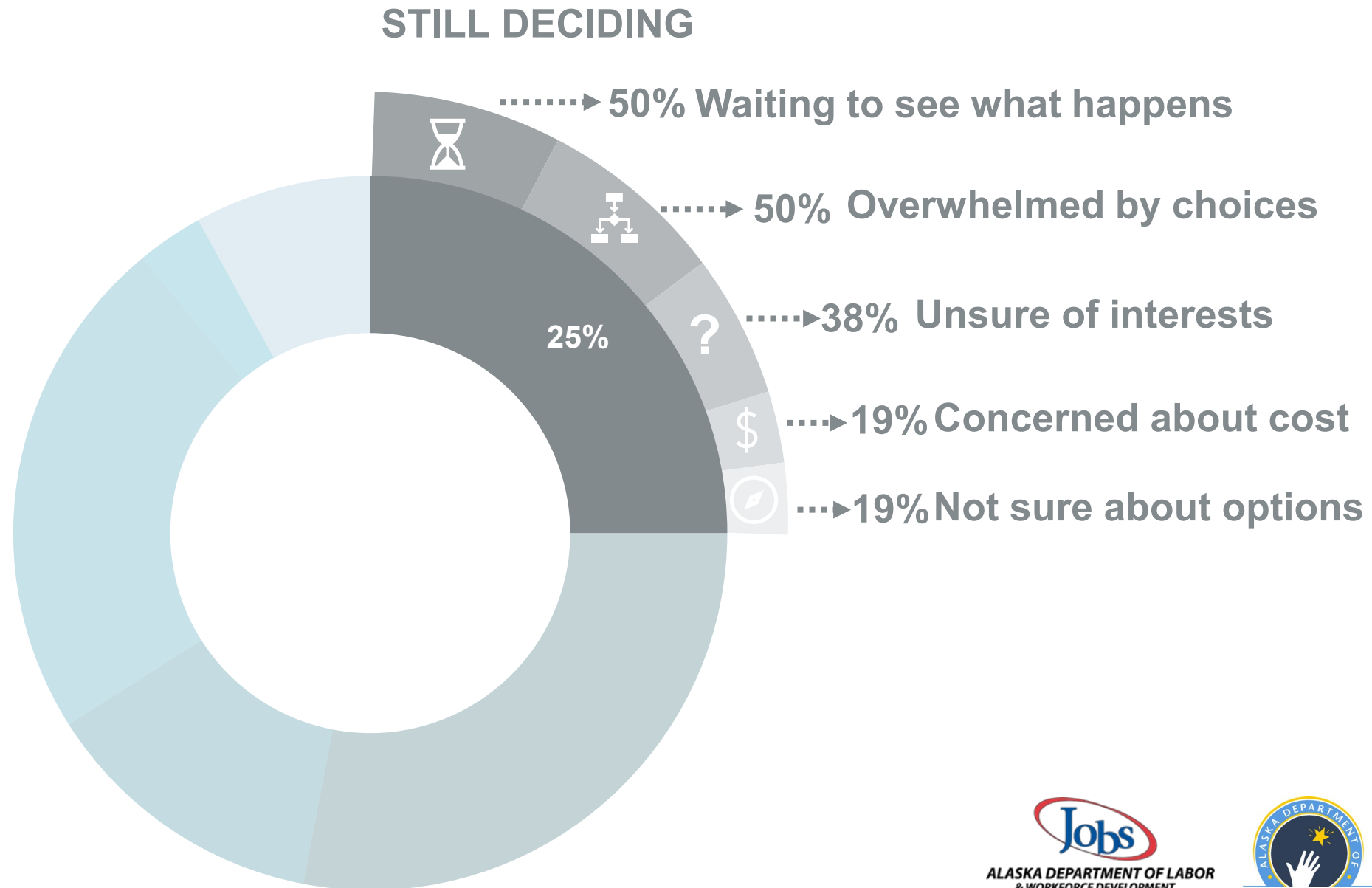


2025 rootEd Alaska Students by Pathway

CAREER TRAINING PROGRAMS



Barriers to Pathway Selection



Opportunities for Growth



Strengthen Support for Workforce-Bound Students

Advisors need more tools and strategies to guide students entering the workforce directly - especially to help connect them with living-wage career opportunities.



Expand Resources for Still Deciding Students

There is a clear need for targeted advising and materials to help undecided students explore viable postsecondary options and make informed decisions.



Deepen Impact of Career Exposure Opportunities

Advisors need additional support to deepen and expand the impact of Career Exposure offerings, increase awareness of best practices across regions, and receive guidance on partnership development.



Improve Communications with Stakeholders

Feedback from administrators highlights an opportunity to strengthen how the program's goals, successes, and supports are communicated to both internal and external audiences.

Pilot Expansion | *FY2026 Participants and FY2027 Potential Participants*

FY2026 Participants

Annette Island City
Bristol Bay
Dillingham City
Galena City
Hydaburg City
Lake and Peninsula
Nenana City
Southwest Region
Southeast Island – Spring 2026

FY2027 Potential Participants

**Alaska Regional Career and Technical
Interior Consortium**
Three School Districts

**Sealaska Heritage Institute and Southeast
Regional Resource Center Collaboration**
14 School Districts

*The model is
designed for
scalability.*

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