

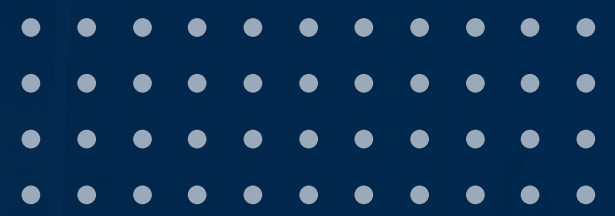


**Growing Alaskan
Teachers for
Alaska's Students**

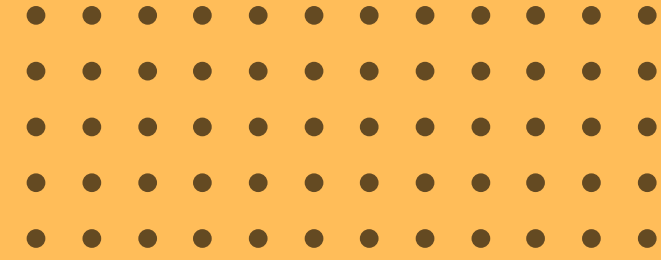
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA: *EDUCATION*



**Dr. Bridget Weiss, Liaison,
Alaska College of Education Consortium
House Education Committee
April 29, 2026**



AREAS OF TRACTION



***University of Alaska
School of Education Leadership***

Dr. Tonia Dousay, Dean, UAA

Dr. Douglas Cost, Dean, UAF

Dr. Angie Lunda, Interim Dean, UAS



Teach Alaska

**Dr. Bridget Weiss, Liaison,
Alaska College of Education Consortium**



University of Alaska *Grows Teachers!*

[GYO Website: School of Education,
Fairbanks](#)



The GYO 4

Four requirements for building successful GYO teacher preparation programs



Money



Time



Encouragement



**Quality
Preparation**

University of Alaska: Initial Licensure

School of Education	AY21	AY22	AY23	AY24	AY25	Preliminary AY26
UAA			2	3	6	6
UAF	59	68	55	46	45	58
UAS	78	93	86	68	64	62
Total:	137	161	143	117	115	126
Total in last 5 years:						662

**Current Enrollment Trend:
Fall 2025 Registration compared to Fall 2026 at this
same time:**

- UAA: increase of 28 students (46 to 74)**
- UAF: increase of 6 students (116 to 122)**
- UAS: increase of 18 students (35 to 53)**

EDUCATORS RISING ALASKA

There's Power in Teaching

Educators Rising Alaska is a Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) that prepares students for careers in education. Through hands-on learning, leadership development, and statewide collaboration, we support Grow Your Own (GYO) teacher pathways, CTE-aligned curriculum and competitions, state and national leadership opportunities, and professional development for teacher leaders.





Mission

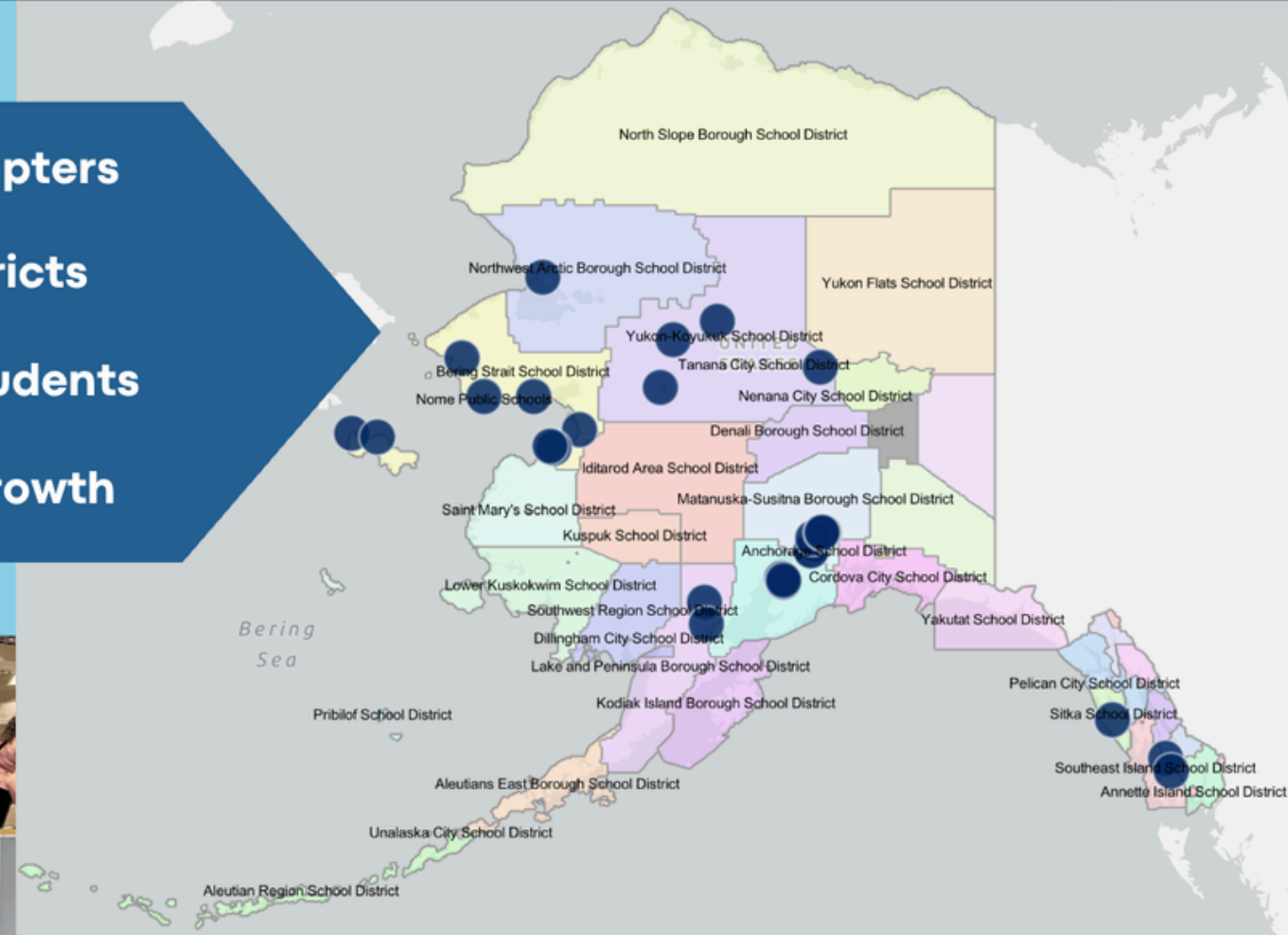
To inspire and support students in becoming the next generation of Alaska's educators, fostering a sustainable and community-reflective teaching workforce.

Vision

A statewide network of empowered students, educators, and community partners working together to strengthen Alaska's education system.


"Educators Rising Alaska let me put the cherry on top of my love for teaching"

-  34 Chapters
-  15 Districts
-  322 Students
-  73% Growth



For more information:



 907-474-8410

 uaf-edrisingak@alaska.edu

alaska.edu/educatorsrising



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UA Dual Enrollment Report, 2018-2024

Overview

- Report covers participation rates & outcomes by gender, race, community type (rural/urban), and Title 1 schools

Key Findings

- Alaska has increased dual enrollment access and participation in rural and Title 1 schools
- Most students perform well in the dual enrollment classes they take
- There is opportunity to close gaps in credit accrual, completion rates, and enrollment in a UA College after high school graduation

READ THE FULL REPORT:



For More Information Contact Dayna DeFeo | djdefeo@alaska.edu



Alaska Statewide Mentor Project

Currently working in over 30 districts to support approximately 150 teachers

(SUPPORTED)

High Quality Preparation

Assessment Skills
Alaska Place Based Strategies

(“staying power”)

**All K-8 and PK-3 Initial Licensure
Candidates graduate
“AK Reads Act Ready”!**

Each program has courses aligned with the DEED regulations, resulting in Reads Act Certified Teachers as they walk across the stage.

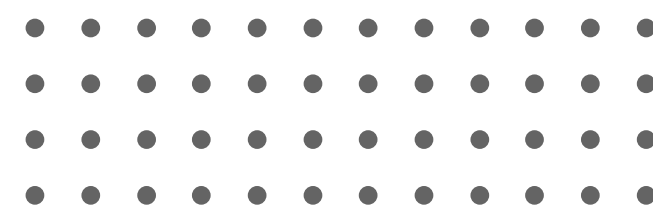
(PREPARED)



SCHOOL OF EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

- UAS developing Masters of Arts in Teaching, Indigenous Languages
- UAA is entering year 3 of RAP programming, with participation accounting for 2% of all Apprentices nationwide. First licensed teacher will graduate in May.
- UAF launched first RAP programs this fall with 7 (elementary and secondary) apprentices with an additional 7 in SPED this spring.



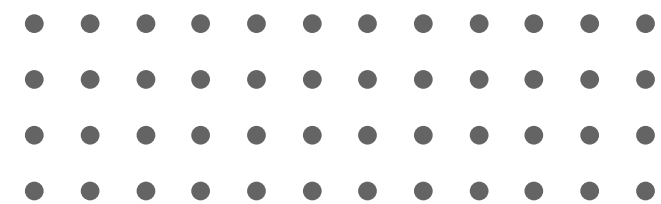


UAS: PITAAS

Preparing Indigenous Teachers and Administrators for Alaska Schools



- 275 degrees, certificates, and endorsements have been awarded to **179** Indigenous students.
-
- **116 of 179** PITAAS graduates hold professional education licenses.
-
- Graduates are employed in **30 of 54** school districts
-
- **5 PhDs and 5 Superintendent Endorsements**
-
- Currently, PITAAS is supporting **13** students with **3** graduating Spring, 2026.



The GYO 4

Four requirements for building successful GYO teacher preparation programs



Money



Time



Encouragement



Quality Preparation

WHAT WE KNOW

Homegrown teachers have larger contributions to student achievement and higher retention rates than other novice teachers

[Clewell & Villegas, 2001](#); [Papay et al., 2012](#), [Edwards et al., 2022](#)

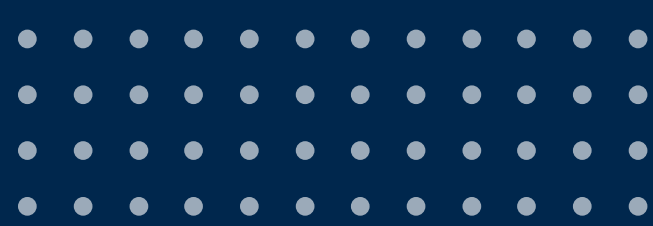
Teachers who complete a high quality preparation program prior to being hired as a teacher of record are 3x more likely to remain in the profession

[Carver-Thomas, 2018](#); [Ingersoll et al, 2012](#); [Sorensen and Ladd 2020](#)

To flip Alaska's school workforce from "flown here" to "grown here" we need **successful** grow-your-own programs

Alaska's kids deserve well prepared teachers on day 1.

Alaska's future teachers need time, money, coordinated supports and high quality programs to become those "Day 1 Ready" teachers.



r

➤ **Registered
Apprenticeship
Programs**

➤ **District/UA
Partnerships**

GROW YOUR OWN

**Partnerships are critical: K-12;
DEED; ACSA/AERRC; DOL;
Tribal Corporations; ACEC**

- UAF hosted its 4th annual GYO event in Fairbanks last weekend.
- 15 School Districts participated alongside UAF SOE faculty and staff
- The event aims to bring together individuals interested in recruiting, preparing, and retaining more Alaskans to teach in Alaska.
- Participants had the opportunity to problem-solve and share successes
- Current UAF School of Education students and Indigenous alumni shared their experiences and expertise

EARLY CHILDHOOD +



UAA Teacher RAP

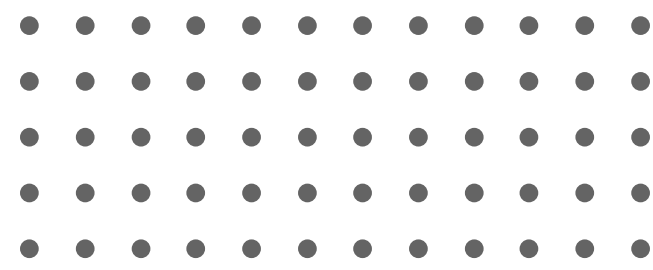
- Stackable
 - NAEYC Accredited
 - DEED approval for BA PK-3
 - OEC (4) and AA (13)
 - PK-3 (41) in BA and (7) in post bacc
 - 4 additional will transfer to UAS
- SPED RAP



UAF CTC Early Childhood Education

- ECE Nanny Occupational Endorsement 20 credits
- ECE Certificate 34 credits (includes the OE)
- ECE Associate of Applied Science 60 credits

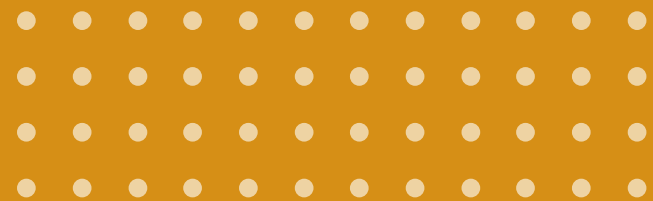




UAA AND UAS EDUCATION LEADERSHIP RAPS



- ✓ **UAA: Approved and Launches Summer 2026**
 - Tuition paid through DEED SAEF grant
- ✓ **UAS: Potential Launch Summer, 2026**
 - Target participants: Emergency Certificate Administrators²
 - Tuition paid through DEED SAEF grant



Statewide Teacher Survey



RECRUITMENT: A team EFFORT!

K-12 School Districts

- ASA
- AASB
- DEED

UA INTERN SCHOLARSHIP

Priority points awarded for: AK resident, High Need areas (STEM, Special Education), current UA student, and doing Internship in an predominantly indigenous school/district.

Supports INITIAL LICENSURE teacher candidates in their 3rd and 4th year and those doing Graduate Certificates

Covers all Tuition and Fees AND Support Stipend during Internship: \$5,000 each semester

Total Awarded to date: \$ 4,000,000



THANK YOU

Join Us in Building the Next Generation of Educators

Recruitment

Retention

