

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA
SB241 REPORT—Alaska's University for Alaska's Schools
Presented to the 28th Alaska Legislature
February 27, 2013

UA Teacher Preparation Program Highlights

- 1) All three major academic units—UAA, UAF, UAS—offer teacher preparation programs in both face-to-face and online/e-Learning formats
- 2) The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), one of two federally-recognized organizations nationally that approves teacher education programs, has approved UA programs for accreditation. Approval requires an intensive self-study, engagement with school districts and the Department of Education and Early Development, and includes a site visit by national evaluators
- 3) All UA education students in initial certification programs must pass the nationally-recognized *Praxis I* and *Praxis II* exams before they enter student teaching, and they must pass one or more Praxis II content area exams in order to receive an institutional recommendation for state licensure
- 4) UA Education programs offer initial certification in elementary, secondary, and special education. UAA also offers initial certification in early childhood education, and early childhood special education
- 5) All three programs offer endorsements and certificates for already-certified teachers in specialized areas including reading specialist, cross-cultural education, special education
- 6) Students from communities across Alaska can complete their Education degree online, including the Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and Special Education. At the graduate level they can earn the Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Education, Masters of Special Education, and Educational Leadership/Principal Certification
- 7) UAA, UAF, and UAS all offer ongoing professional development opportunities for educators, both face-to-face and online, and commonly in partnership with districts, the State's Department of Education and Early Development, and national educators
- 8) All programs include an emphasis on growing the number of Alaska Native teachers
- 9) Education faculty have made special efforts in recent years to target the greatest needs for new teachers in special education and STEM fields
- 10) Alaska Teacher Education Consortium (ATEC), with broad statewide representation, meets March 26 to continue improvements in UA teacher preparation

FIGURE 1: UA TEACHER EDUCATION GRADUATES, 2006-2012

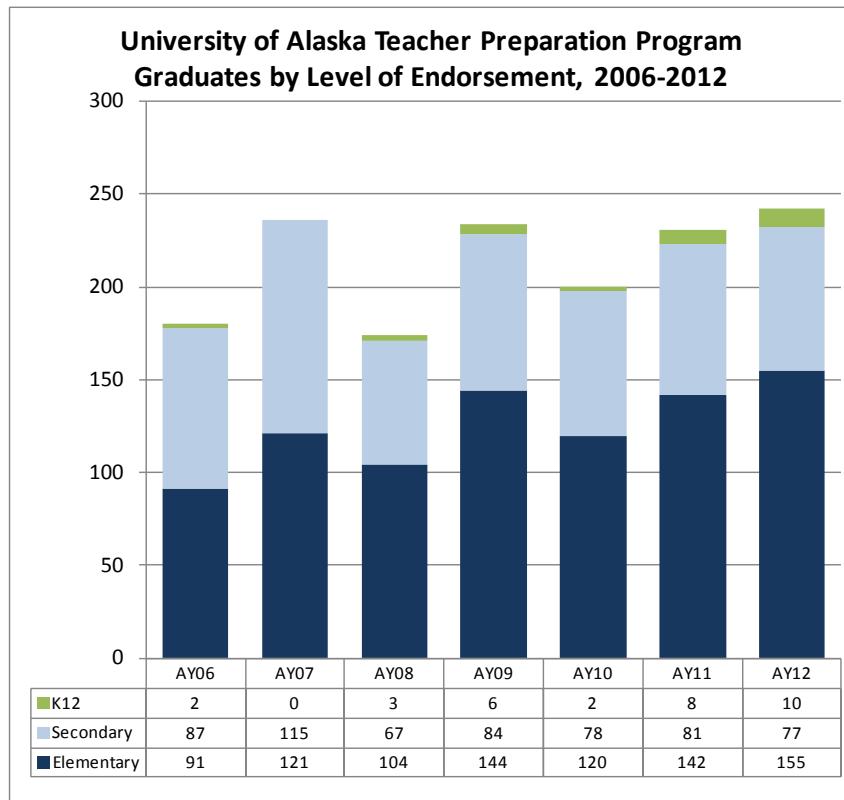


FIGURE 2: UA SPECIAL EDUCATION GRADUATES, 2006-2012

