



Representative Chris Tuck

Alaska State Legislature

District 29 - Representing Dimond Estates, Foxridge, Taku, Southwood Manor, Campbell, and Independence Park

HB 49 – Alaska Parents as Teachers Act

Sponsor Statement

Parents are a child's first and most important teachers. Research has clearly shown that parental involvement in a child's early years are critical for development and lay the foundation for success in school and in life.

HB 49, the Alaska Parents as Teachers Act, will empower parents with knowledge and resources to help their children develop into successful students with stronger scholastic achievements.

The bill allows the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development to offer the successful Parents as Teachers parental involvement, early childhood learning system as an education option for families with children ages 0-5.

HB 49:

- Requires evidence-based education, parental involvement, and adherence to accepted best practices and early learning guidelines;
- Directs the Department of Education and Early Development to develop local partnerships to implement Parents as Teachers; and
- Includes a 3-year sunset clause.

Parents as Teachers is completely voluntary for families. It succeeds by engaging families and communities in understanding the way children's brains develop and how to create a learning environment for the child. Because Parents as Teachers is about how children learn, not what they learn, it fits with any educational philosophy and mode, from religious, charter and public school, to home schooling or other education types. Parents as Teachers helps build a community of learning, and assists in early detecting of impairments.

Parents as Teachers is the most cost-effective early education model available in Alaska. Further, it enhances local control and involvement, with partnerships ensuring cooperation towards education goals.

Funds invested in early education pay dividends in the long run. Research shows that children who receive early education earn more money as adults than their peers lacking early education. Children who receive early education also enter the job market in much larger numbers, obtain college education in higher numbers, and remain off public assistance and out of jail in greater numbers.

Alaska's children are our future workforce, and the key to our state's prosperity. Alaska's plumbers, doctors and teachers of tomorrow are the youth in our neighborhoods today. Helping parents boost the skills and natural ingenuity of their children will point the way to Alaska's growth.

Parents as Teachers enjoys statewide support and will help grow stronger Alaskan families, better students and safer communities. It is a proven successful solution for our children and our state's future.

Thank you for your support of HB 49, the Alaska Parents as Teachers Act.

Year-Round

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