

ALASKA'S *Education* CHALLENGE

Survey Overview

Alaska's Education Challenge is a comprehensive reevaluation of our state's system of public education. Throughout 2017, a broad range of Alaskans will develop recommendations for transformational change by working together in one of five committees aligned to the State Board of Education's strategic priorities:

1. Amplify student learning
2. Ensure excellent educators
3. Modernize the education system
4. Inspire tribal and community ownership of educational excellence
5. Promote safety and well-being

In February 2017, the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) opened Alaska's Education Challenge with a survey that asked Alaskans to provide ideas for topics to be discussed by the five committees. The response was overwhelming. Almost 1,400 respondents from 109 communities across the state offered over 18,000 ideas for topics. DEED then collaborated with Education Northwest to code these ideas into one or more of 47 broad categories.

The tables found below include the five categories in which the most responses were coded for each of the five committees. Several categories appear in the top-five list for multiple committees. Please note that Education Northwest avoided value judgements when creating the broad categories. Education Northwest simply coded responses into categories based on search terms.

Student Learning Committee

5,264 ideas for topics from 1,326 respondents

Top five ideas for topics

Category	Responses
Funding for education	372
CTE and career preparation courses and schools	313
Education programs, policy, and state-level policymakers	309
District and school board roles, organization, schedules, and facilities	287
School accountability and standardized testing	278

Educator Excellence Committee

4,164 ideas for topics from 1,141 respondents

Top five ideas for topics

<i>Category</i>	<i>Responses</i>
Professional development for educators, administrators, and staff	446
Teacher, staff, and principal salaries and benefits	397
Principals/school administrators and their roles	300
District and school board roles, organization, schedules, and facilities	281
Education programs, policy, and state-level policymakers	256

Modernization and Finance Committee

3,408 ideas for topics from 1,045 respondents

Top five ideas for topics

<i>Category</i>	<i>Responses</i>
Technology-based instruction and other technologies	472
Funding for education	363
District and school board roles, organization, schedules, and facilities	353
Community engagement and partnerships	249
Education programs, policy, and state-level policymakers	180

Tribal and Community Ownership Committee

2,582 ideas for topics from 855 respondents

Top five ideas for topics

<i>Category</i>	<i>Responses</i>
Native, local, and rural needs or control	852
Community engagement and partnerships	747
Parent engagement with and role in education	236
District and school board roles, organization, schedules, and facilities	204
Education programs, policy, and state-level policymakers	162

Safety and Well-Being Committee

3,157 ideas for topics from 968 respondents

Top five ideas for topics

<i>Category</i>	<i>Responses</i>
Student support services (trauma, mental health, food services, advising, and well-being)	791
School culture, climate, safety, and discipline	750
Education programs, policy, and state-level policymakers	300
Physical activity (PE, exercise, sports, and recess)	226
Parent engagement with and role in education	222