

2018 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN: The Senate Finance Committee

TO: HB 286 / HB 287

OFFERED BY: Senator Olson

DEPARTMENT: Education and Early Development

APPROPRIATION: Education Support and Admin Services

ALLOCATION: Early Learning Coordination

ADD: \$1,200,000 1004 Gen Fund (UGF)

DELETE: (\$600,000) OTI 1004 Gen Fund (UGF)

EXPLANATION: Restore funding for additional early learning programs support, and delete the one time appropriation.

In FY2018 Early Learning used the \$1,200.0 to extend pre-elementary grant support to nine districts providing support for 434 children. This increased the number of pre-elementary services provided by districts to 758 children served.

In FY2019 the department will use the funds to continue to ensure that districts are leveraging state funds to meet the needs within their community by providing high-quality and equitable access to pre-elementary programs.

Over the past year, the department has worked in partnership with many agencies and stakeholders to shape early learning in Alaska. At the core of this work is the belief that parents and families are a child's first and foremost teachers, that high-quality programs are the only programs that make a difference, and resources must be targeted to reach those children and families with the least access to opportunity.