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## Programs at Special Education Service Agency

**FY11**

### **Low Incidence Disabilities (LID)**

#### **Autism Impairment (AI)**

Our primary purpose is to empower educational teams and provide information and training to professionals and families for development of programs for:

- Functional communication
- Positive behavior support
- Social skills
- Instructional strategies
- Meeting sensory needs
- Curriculum modification
- Accommodations.

We offer presentations and trainings to people who work with students, ages 3-21 years old, on a variety of topics including:

- Autism awareness
- Inclusion of special learners in general education settings
- Prompting strategies
- Positive behavior plans
- Functional behavior assessment

#### **Emotional Disturbance (ED)**

A student's emotional disturbance can affect areas beyond the emotional, and may also include the student's physical, social, or cognitive skills. ED program services include useful strategies for educators to provide emotional and behavioral support while also helping students with academics, social skills, self-control, and self-esteem. By encouraging positive behavioral support (PBS) in the school environment, problem behaviors are minimized, and positive, appropriate behaviors are fostered. This may include assistance with conducting a functional behavioral assessment (FBA) and the subsequent behavior intervention plan (BIP), which focuses on student strengths and interests. Families of students with ED often need help in understanding their child's disability and how to access mental health services. SESA's ED specialists help to coordinate services between home, school, and community.

#### **Hearing Impairment (HI)**

The HI program provides support to staff working with students with a moderate to profound hearing loss. Services include:

- Assistance with assessment of language, communication, literacy, and speech development
- Information on sign language, deaf culture, and professional development opportunities for interpreters

### *Hearing Impairment (HI) Continued...*

- Assistance with planning transition to school or post-secondary programs
- Troubleshooting assistive listening devices
- Working closely with parents, teachers, and paraprofessionals to design programs that meet the unique needs of children with hearing loss

### **Multiple Disabilities (MD)**

School teams in rural and remote Alaska are eligible to receive services to help them educate students with significant cognitive impairments, physical disabilities, and multiple disabilities. Students with other health impairments, traumatic brain injury, and pre-school developmental delay are also often assigned to the multiple disabilities program. Education specialists from the multiple disabilities program work with school-based teams and other itinerant professionals to help design and support educational programs that are age appropriate and meaningful for the student. We help teachers provide access to the general education curriculum, while focusing on academic and other essential skill development through specialized materials and strategies.

### **Vision Impairment (AI)**

The SESA vision impairment program provides supports in any of the following areas of need:

- Functional vision evaluation
- Development and implementation of IEP/instructional programs
- Sharing and modeling of intervention strategies
- Specialized teaching strategies and skills
- Assistance in procuring or adapting instructional materials or equipment
- Orientation and mobility training

## **SESA Tech and Library**

### **Tech**

SESA maintains a full website with information and links to a wide variety of information and knowledge about low incidence disabilities. It includes staff-written blogs, presentations, and educational modules. In addition, SESA uses two-way videoconferencing to provide consultation and support to rural districts with similar technologies. The agency has an extensive infrastructure of these and other distance and educational technologies to help rural and remote districts provide quality educational programs to their students with significant disabilities.

### **Library**

SESA's extensive library is available to educators, families, university students, and other service providers throughout Alaska. The library was established to support SESA's staff and the school districts they serve, and many outside patrons also take advantage of this resource assistive technology devices may be borrowed to try or to use while the student's own device is being repaired.

## State Grants

### Alaska Autism Resource Center (AARC)

AARC provides statewide information dissemination, presentations, and trainings. In collaboration with families, schools, and communities throughout the state, the AARC helps to increase the knowledge and resources of appropriate services for individuals of all ages with autism spectrum disorders.

### Alaska Center for Accessible Media (AKCAM)

The Alaska Center for Accessible Media (AKCAM) was created with startup funding from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) to be a one-stop shop for school districts who need to provide accessible instructional materials (AIM) to students with print disabilities. AKCAM is a state Authorized user and Accessible Media Producer for the national system for AIM. In addition, AKCAM can help districts find electronic text across a variety of online and local providers, while being able to convert and produce electronic text materials in a variety of electronic formats, like Daisy-compliant talking books, accessible PDFs, Braille and refreshable Braille files, and audio files. Services are at cost for time and materials, and are available to school districts across the state of Alaska.

### Bring the Kids Home Educational Transition Support Project (BTKH)

The BTKH Project was developed to establish a non-direct service program to support youth returning to Alaska schools from residential psychiatric treatment centers (RPTC). SESA will establish communications with the RPTCs and assist with advance notice of student return, transition of necessary paperwork, and follow up of recommended services.

### Positive Behavior Intervention Supports Center of Alaska (PBIS Center)

The Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Center provides technical assistance and coaching to schools. It serves as a clearinghouse and depository for PBIS materials to meet the needs of all Alaskan schools and educators.

## Federal Grants

### Creating Innovative, Responsive, and Consistent Learning Environments (CIRCLE)

Project CIRCLE supports Head Start programs across Alaska to increase the use of program-wide positive behavior supports. We look at ways to teach correct behavior and arrange the learning and physical environments to prevent problem behavior and to help children who have difficulty managing their behavior.

### Alaska Dual Sensory Impairment Services (DSI)

As the recipient of federal funds under The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), SESA provides technical assistance for children and youth, ages 0 through 21 years who have both vision and hearing impairments. Our purpose is to assist service providers and families in preparing learners with dual sensory impairments for quality lives in their homes, schools, and communities. We provide technical assistance to service providers and families through onsite consultation, in-service trainings, promotion of home-school partnerships, materials and resource dissemination, and access to an extensive lending library. Services are provided at no cost.

**SESA Districts Served Last 12 Months**

DISTRICT	Student Consultation- Infant Learning Program (ILP)	Student Consultation- Low Incidence Disabilities (LID)	Site Consultation	Training	Interagency Collaboration	Community Relations	AARC Family Support
(ROW(k2)-0		•					
Aleutian Region		•					
Aleutians East		•					
Anchorage	•	•		•	•	•	
Annette Island		•					
Bristol Bay		•					
BSSD		•	•	•	•		
Chatham		•		•			
Copper River	•	•					
Cordova		•			•	•	
Craig		•	•				
Delta/Greely		•				•	
Denali		•					
Dillingham		•	•	•	•		•
Fairbanks	•			•	•	•	•
Galena							
Haines		•					
Hoonah	•	•		•	•	•	
Hydaburg		•					
Iditarod							
Juneau	•			•	•		
Kake							
Kashaganamiut		•					
Kenai	•	•	•	•		•	
Ketchikan		•		•		•	•
Klawock		•	•	•			
Kodiak	•	•				•	
Kuspuk		•					
Lake & Penn		•					
LKSD	•	•		•	•		
Lower Yukon	•	•		•		•	
Mat-Su	•	•	•	•	•		
Mt. Edgecumbe							
Nenana	•						
Nome		•					
North Slope		•	•	•		•	
NWASD		•	•	•	•		
Pelican							
Petersburg		•					
Pribilof							
Sitka	•				•	•	
Skagway		•					
Southeast Island		•					
St. Mary's							
SW Region		•			•		
Tanana		•				•	
Unalaska		•					
Valdez		•					
Wrangell		•					•
Yakutat		•					
Yukon Flats		•					
Yukon/Koyukuk		•	•				
Yupiit	•	•					