

The Moore Settlement: A one-page summary

More information: CEAAC Executive Director Charles Wohlforth, 907-242-2151, director@ceaac.net

Who is CEAAC? Citizens for the Educational Advancement of Alaska's Children (www.ceaac.net) is a non-profit corporation with 22 Alaska school districts as members.

The case In 2004, a variety of plaintiffs sued the State of Alaska in *Moore*, challenging the adequacy of the educational system under the Alaska Constitution's guarantee of "a system of public schools open to all children." In 2007, Judge Sharon Gleason for the first time defined the constitutional obligation and narrowed the case to the State's failure to support and oversee chronically underperforming schools. CEAAC alone carried on the litigation through the "compliance phase," achieving positive rulings in 2009 and 2010, until settling with the State on January 26, 2012.

Settlement structure The State pays \$18 million total for four programs over an anticipated three years. The money is allocated by the Moore Collaborative Committee, with three voting members appointed by the State and three by CEAAC. The committee designs most program details, creates simplified grant applications, and reviews outcomes. Grants are scored and evaluated by independent contractors. After the \$18 million is expended, the committee and the programs end unless extended by future action of the State.

Program	Purpose	Beneficiary
Two-year kindergarten and related programs	Standards-based instruction for four-year-olds to prepare them for school.	The 40 schools with the lowest performance and demonstrating community support for the program.
Targeted resource grants	Non-competitive grants to support proven educational strategies.	The 40 Alaska schools with the lowest performance.
Teacher retention grants	Competitive grants for initiatives or physical improvements to reduce teacher turn-over.	Any Alaska school with high teacher turn-over and low test scores, depending on proposals.
HSGQE Remediation Reimbursement	Remedial support for students who fail the graduation exam after attending an underperforming school, up to \$3000 per student.	Any Alaska school with a junior or senior failing the HSGQE who attends or previously attended high school at one of the 40 lowest schools.

Other obligations In exchange for settling, CEAAC and the State agreed to:

- Dismiss the litigation without recovering legal expenses;
- New accountability measures for school districts accessing settlement funds;
- New attendance requirements for students benefiting from settlement funds;
- The \$18 million appropriation in new education funds (without offsets) during the 2012 session;
- Refrain during the 2012 session from advocating for increases to the settlement.