

Alaska Pilot Pre-Kindergarten Project Evaluation – Year One

The pilot program is functioning in six districts

- **The Anchorage School District (ASD)**—two classrooms in conjunction with Head Start
- **Bering Strait School District (BSSD)**—partnership between BSSD, Kawerak, Inc. Head Start, and RurAL CAP Head Start
- **The Juneau School District (JSD)**—partnership with Head start, two classrooms
- **The Lower Kuskokwim School District (LKSD)**—one school-based classroom in Bethel.
- **Nome**—two classrooms: one private, the other Head Start.
- **Yukon-Koyukuk School District (YKSD)**—two new classrooms. a district-run program in Allakaket, and a partnership with Tanana Chiefs Conference in Minto.

There are 319 students served at a cost of \$2,000,000 (\$6270 per child).

Assessments

Three assessments were used to measure progress.

The Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test (PPVT) which provides information on vocabulary and receptive language development.

The Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning (DIAL -3) which provides information on three areas of development: Motor Development; Concept Development; and Language Development.

The Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS) which measures the quality of the environment in which the programs took place.

Statewide Results

Statewide, children showed progress as measured by all three assessments.

Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test

	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Students in Fourth (lowest) Quartile	72 percent	44 percent
Students in Third Quartile	17 percent	28 percent
Students in Second Quartile	7 percent	20 percent
Students in First Quartile	4 percent	8 percent

In the Fall 11% of the students scored in the top two quartiles.

In the Spring 28% scored in the top two quartiles.

Developmental Indicators for the Assessment of Learning

	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Students in Fourth (lowest) Quartile	55 percent	26 percent
Students in Third Quartile	18 percent	22 percent
Students in Second Quartile	18 percent	24 percent
Students in First Quartile	9 percent	28 percent

In the Fall 27% of the students scored in the top two quartiles.

In the Spring 52% scored in the top two quartiles.

Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale

State Aggregate	Fall	Spring
Overall Score:	3.76	4.69
Space and Furnishings	3.06	4.08
Personal Care Routines	2.64	3.33
Language-Reasoning	4.10	5.43
Activities	3.16	4.33
Interaction	4.54	4.80
Program Structure	4.26	5.41
Parents and Staff	5.44	6.13

PPVT Results by District

The Anchorage School District

	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Students in Fourth (lowest) Quartile	60 percent	39 percent
Students in Third Quartile	23 percent	21 percent
Students in Second Quartile	11 percent	29 percent
Students in First Quartile	6 percent	11 percent

In the Fall 17% of the students scored in the top two quartiles.

In the Spring 40% scored in the top two quartiles.

Bering Strait School District

	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Students in Fourth (lowest) Quartile	91 percent	61 percent
Students in Third Quartile	7 percent	33 percent
Students in Second Quartile	2 percent	6 percent
Students in First Quartile	0 percent	0 percent

In the Fall 2% of the students scored in the top two quartiles.

In the Spring 6% scored in the top two quartiles.

The Juneau School District

	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Students in Fourth (lowest) Quartile	50 percent	20 percent
Students in Third Quartile	28 percent	37 percent
Students in Second Quartile	9 percent	40 percent
Students in First Quartile	13 percent	3 percent

In the Fall 22% of the students scored in the top two quartiles.

In the Spring 43% scored in the top two quartiles.

The Lower Kuskokwim School District

	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Students in Fourth (lowest) Quartile	62 percent	45 percent
Students in Third Quartile	24 percent	23 percent
Students in Second Quartile	14 percent	27 percent
Students in First Quartile	0 percent	5 percent

In the Fall 14% of the students scored in the top two quartiles.

In the Spring 32% scored in the top two quartiles.

Nome

	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Students in Fourth (lowest) Quartile	62 percent	45 percent
Students in Third Quartile	24 percent	23 percent
Students in Second Quartile	14 percent	27 percent
Students in First Quartile	0 percent	5 percent

In the Fall 14% of the students scored in the top two quartiles.

In the Spring 32% scored in the top two quartiles.

Yukon-Koyukuk School District

	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Students in Fourth (lowest) Quartile	81 percent	46 percent
Students in Third Quartile	14 percent	18 percent
Students in Second Quartile	0 percent	9 percent
Students in First Quartile	5 percent	27 percent

In the Fall 5% of the students scored in the top two quartiles.

In the Spring 36% scored in the top two quartiles.

District Summary

Every district showed some gains in assessments. Bering Strait had the worst all around scores, but saw students move up, even though most are still performing in the lower quartiles. Y-K clearly had the greatest gains, going from 5% to 36% of students in the top two quartiles. They started with the greatest percentage in the lowest quartile (81%), and ended with the greatest percentage in the highest quartile (27%). Juneau lost students in the first quartile (from 13% to 3%) but increased the number of kids in the top two quartiles (22% up to 43%).

Miscellaneous

17 districts currently have Pre-K programs with at least 15 students enrolled. In 2010 there were 2475 children enrolled in Pre-K programs around the state. (I have an email into Paul Sugar to get these figures clarified. Some of the kids are in special education programs. Some districts have started Pre-K programs on their own.)

Summary

Children in the Pilot Pre-K program scored better on preparedness after the a year of Pre-K. The greatest gains were seen in on the PPVT evaluations, which is promising because the RurAL CAP data shows that linguistic development is the most stunted in the communities they serve.