

# ALASKA POLICY FORUM

Who are we?

Non-profit

All volunteer staff

Our Education Focus: Students & Parents



# Where is Alaska Headed Educationally?

## Alaska Policy Forum Assumptions:

- \*Compared to other states:

- Our kids are just as smart
- Our teachers are just as dedicated
- Our parents are just as loving

- \*The brightness of a child's mind is not closely linked to their skin color

- \*Economic status impacts student achievement



# Where is Alaska Headed Educationally?

- K-12 spending far above the national average
  - Both in overall dollars and rate of increase
    - Spend far too much on facilities
    - Staffing surge
- Relatively low poverty



# Disappointing Results (ROI)

## Alaska 2011 NAEP Test Rankings

4th Grade Reading	50 <sup>th</sup> out of 50
4th Grade Math	44 <sup>th</sup> out of 50
8th Grade Reading	34 <sup>th</sup> out of 50
8th Grade Math	28 <sup>th</sup> out of 50

**UPPER and MIDDLE Income Kids**

4th Grade Reading	50 <sup>th</sup> out of 50
4th Grade Math	47 <sup>th</sup> out of 50
8th Grade Reading	49 <sup>th</sup> out of 50
8th Grade Math	32 <sup>nd</sup> out of 50

**LOW Income Kids**



# Making Change Happen

## #1 More Competition – More Parental Choice

- Creates automatic accountability
- Public funding to private institutions is already commonplace
- Current system too dependent on no-bid single-source supplier
- More choices = more parental involvement
- Opens choice to rural students
- Drives innovation & improvement
  - Carpe Diem Charter Schools
  - Rocketship Charter Schools



# Making Change Happen

## #2 Update Overly Restrictive Charter School Laws

- 2013 Stanford University CREDO Charter School Study
- Alaska's charter laws 41<sup>st</sup> out of 43 (NAPSC Rankings)
- Competition & innovation needed
- Charter Management Organizations (CMO) in lower-48
  - KIPP
  - Uncommon Schools- 32 Campuses
    - Inner city kids – 78% low income
    - SAT average – 20 points above “College Ready”



# Making Change Happen

## #3 Third Grade Literacy Requirement

- Now law in 16 states – Florida the 1<sup>st</sup> in 2001
- Grades 1 & 2 targeted intervention

### 2011 NAEP Scores

Alaska, 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Reading – All	Score 208
Florida, 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Reading -- Low-Income	Score 216



# Making Change Happen

## #4 Simple and Accurate Assessment of Schools

ASPI system misleads parents, students and staff about school quality; need visibility

Alaska sets very low standards:

SBA: 80% Alaska kids proficient in reading 2011

NAEP: 25% Alaska kids proficient in reading 2011





# Making Change Happen

## #4 Simple and Accurate Assessment of Schools

ASPI “Three Star” elementary school in Anchorage:

Scored 78 out of possible 100

Only 7 points below “Four Star”

- Scores in general decline since 2006
- “Average” attendance rate compared to district
- Reading     44% BELOW or FAR BELOW proficient
- Writing     48% BELOW or FAR BELOW proficient
- Math        51% BELOW or FAR BELOW proficient
- Science     92% BELOW or FAR BELOW proficient



# Making Change Happen

## #5 Leverage Technology

All schools – An implosion of productivity

Rural schools- A vision



## The Future: Focus on the Children

- We have no financial interest
- Alaska pays too much-gets little return
- Competition drives excellence
- Alaska needs the political will to make change happen

