

Educational Opportunity Timeline for the past 25 years.

- 1994 – 1999 – Development of, filing (1997), and litigation of *Kasayulie*. This lawsuit was filed based on a clear record of disparity in the funding of school construction and maintenance between rural and urban schools.
- 1999 – Court rules in favor of *Kasayulie*, the Legislature begins to address the disparity in School construction funding between Rural and Urban needs. No systematic process secured. Settlement talks begin.
- 2001 – 2005 – Data collected, community development process initiated, to begin to identify systemic instructional needs in Alaska. This work is focused on rural districts where local residents and educators had identified a dramatic need for educational improvement. This process included community meeting in rural villages, small towns, and large urban areas – identifying the needs of families and students, communities, and educators in these areas and to build a documentary case for the legal action. This multi-year process culminates in the filing of the *Moore* education lawsuit.
- 2004 – 2007 – *Moore* lawsuit filed to address the inequity of an adequate educational experience for all Alaskans. The lawsuit extensively focuses on data and information developed through the multi-year community-based data collection and input process conducted by CEAAC.
- 2009/10 – Superior Court rules in *Moore* that the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) must provide more resources to Alaska's struggling schools. The Judge's decision, following two prior decisions in this case, underscores strategies for success that were presented in court and that were drawn from the personal experiences of community members, teachers, education professionals and superintendents that were collected by the plaintiffs and presented on the record. Much of this testimony is later incorporated in the development of a number of legislative initiatives around early education, teacher retention, and education support.
- 2010 – Small Schools Fund established
- 2011/12 – After ten years *Kasayulie* Settlement is reached (2011), as is a *Moore* Settlement (2012). Additional legislation is developed supporting the findings in *Moore* but does not pass. Funding is secured for Pre-K and DEED Pre-K funding is stabilized at \$2 million.
- 2012 – Operating budget addresses some issues in *Moore* such as Pre-K and education support
- 2014 – BSA increase passes for the first time since 2011. Goes into effect 2016 (\$50) and 2017 (\$50). BSA continues to lag behind inflation.

2016 – Introduction of Senator Stevens’ Reads Bill, based on Colorado Reads Act

2017 – Introduction of SB 99, Universal Voluntary Pre-K. There are regular stakeholder meetings with rural and urban school districts, early education groups, and numerous community-based presentations. Bill is adjusted to reflect this input. \$1.2 million in Pre-K funding for *Moore* Districts is added to \$2 million Pre-K funding.

2018 – Overall grants for Pre-K are increased by \$3 million annually for two years (FY 19/FY20). Not all of this funding is utilized by DEED.

2019 – Introduction of SB 6, Universal Voluntary Pre-K. Includes all of the input from SB 99. Hearings and extensive outreach continue with communities and stakeholders.

2020 – Rewriting of SB 6 as the comprehensive Alaska Reads Act with the Department of Education, the Governor, and Senator Begich, which includes all of the input from SB 99 and SB 6 and adds in reading policy from the updated Colorado Reads Act, Senator Stevens’ 2016 legislation, and elements of evidence-based reading policy from other states. It is also based on Alaska’s own evidence of effective practice. 7 Senate hearings are held, extensive work with rural school districts, individuals, educators, early childhood and Head Start providers, parents, and education advocates to enhance the legislation. COVID 19 leads to a truncated Session and legislation dies, though versions are heard in both the House and Senate. Governor vetoes additional Pre-K (\$5 million) and general education (\$30 million) suggests this is because Reads Act did not pass.

2021 – Introduction of SB 8, the Alaska Reads Act. This includes all of the prior SB 6 changes and changes that were in the works based on community input and committee hearings in the House and Senate that were not yet incorporated into Committee Substitutes before the shortened session ended.

2021 – After 4 hearings of SB 8, where public testimony extensively backed the legislation, Senate Education Committee introduces SB 111 which includes parts of SB 8 and SB 42, a bill that included virtual consortium. After many hearings, a Committee Substitute is provided and then amended. SB 111 now includes virtually all elements of SB 8 and moves to Senate Finance. HB 164 is introduced and then adjusted to reflect SB 111 in the form in which it emerged from Senate Education.