



Alaska Public Education Status Update

District and PK-12 Educational Leaders

Alaska Council of School Administrators

Joint Education Committee
March 28, 2022



Dr. Lisa S. Parady

Executive Director,
Alaska Council of School Administrators



Leadership, Unity, and Advocacy for Public Education



Alaska Superintendents Association



Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals



Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals



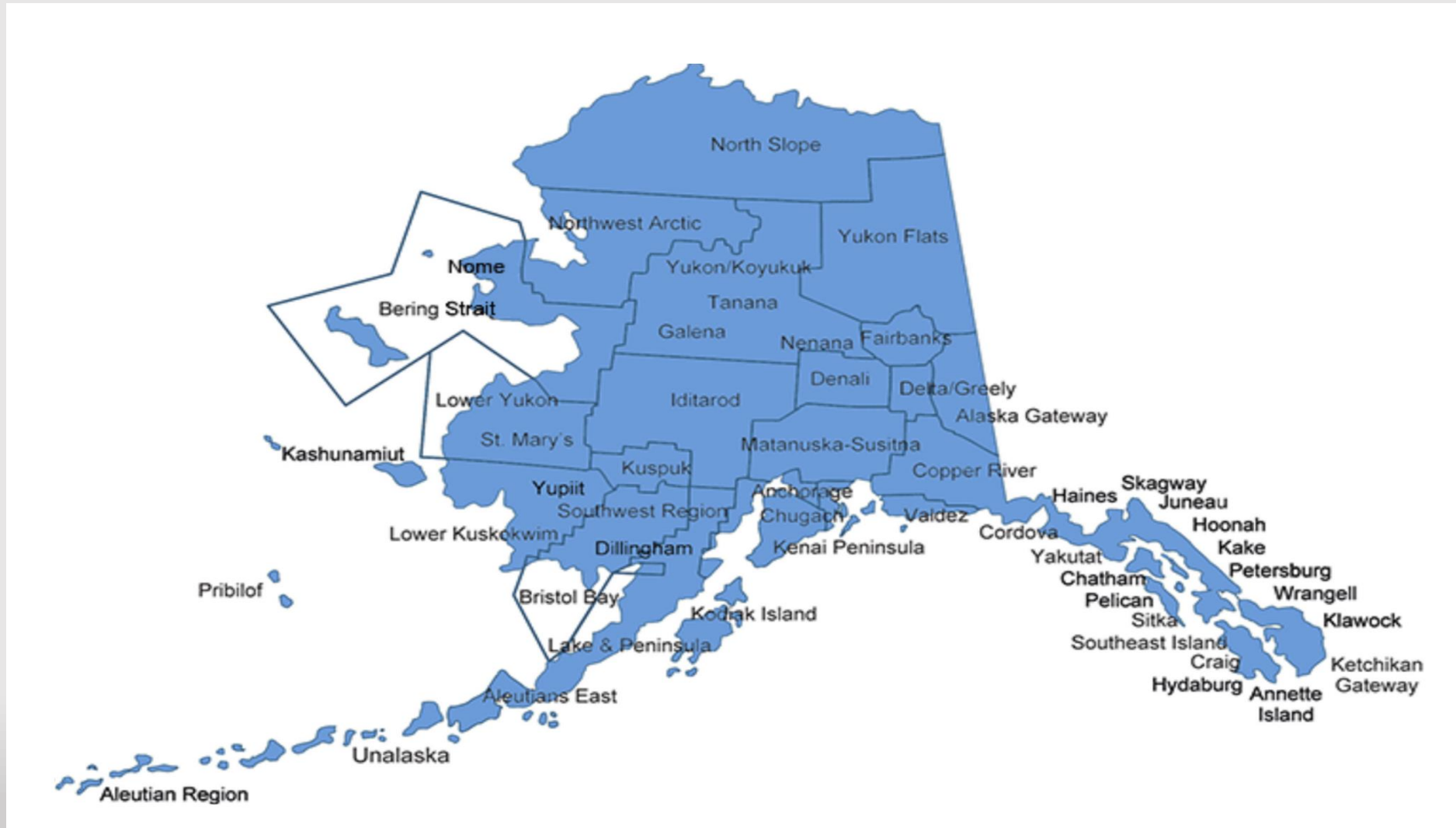
Alaska Association of School Business Officials



Alaska Staff Development Network

*Leadership, Unity,
and Advocacy
for Public
Education*

One State: 54 School Districts



ALASKA COUNCIL OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

2022

JOINT POSITION STATEMENTS



Student Achievement
is our **number one Priority.**

Adequate Funding
remains our **most critical need.**

Joint Position Statements: Unified Priorities for Supporting Alaska Students

Developed collaboratively each year by:

- Superintendents
- PK-12 Principals
- School Business Officials
- ACSA



Superintendent Dr. Bobby Bolen

Bering Strait School District

President, Alaska Superintendents Association





Dr. Bobby Bolen
President
Bering Strait
School District



Kerry Boyd
Past-President
Yukon-Koyukuk
School District



Dr. Bridget Weiss,
President-Elect
Juneau School
District



Scott MacManus,
Secretary/Treasurer
Alaska Gateway
School District



Dan Polta
Director, Seat A
Denali Borough School
District



Bill Hill
Director, Seat B
Bristol Bay School
District



Terri Walker
Director, Seat C
Northwest Arctic
Borough School District



Patrick Mayer
Director, Seat D
Aleutians East Borough
School District



Dr. Randy Trani
Director Seat E
Mat-Su School
District

Increasing Bandwidth in Under-served Areas



- Access to modern technology in order to innovate learning, create efficiencies, provide online health services, and keep pace with peers globally is especially essential in rural and under-served communities
- ACSA also supports efforts by the legislature to continue to increase innovative infrastructure capacity through public/private partnerships and statewide consortiums to provide all communities with equitable access to affordable, reliable, and high-speed internet.



Closing The Opportunity Gap - Equity

- The sudden shift to virtual learning during the pandemic has highlighted the ongoing and increasing need for Alaska's students, educators, and leaders to have equitable access to the digital world both inside and outside of the school environment.
- There is no such thing as unlimited internet in rural Alaska!
- All communities should have equitable and critical infrastructure to support online learning!



CTE



- CTE for both rural and urban schools is critical to high academic standards and Alaska's economic growth and stability.
- Collaboration through professional learning with DEED, the Department of Labor & Workforce Development, and the University of Alaska with educators and industry-based professionals is needed for the academic integration of rigorous and relevant curriculum.
- ACSA fully supports continued funding for voluntary internships and pre-apprenticeship programs that prepare students for high-earning, high-demand jobs.
- The alignment of CTE programs to meet the needs of local, tribal, regional, and state labor markets through this collaboration is also important for improving on-time graduation rates, higher career earnings, and decreasing dropout percentages.



Career & Technical Education

- *CTE programs provide students with the foundation for high-paying, skilled jobs*
- *Robust CTE programs are a critical component of schools with high academic performance and high graduation rates*
- *Gives students the opportunity to build future-ready skills in and for Alaska*



New Superintendent and Pipeline Support Programs



- New and Incoming Superintendent Support: To address the leadership turnover within Alaska's superintendent ranks, ASA provides voluntary in-depth on the job learning opportunities to first and second year superintendents relevant to the Alaska school district and superintendent experience and provides individual support through a research-based mentoring program
- Aspiring Superintendent Cohort Support
- District Office Cohort Support



Principal Brendan Wilson

Begich Middle School

President, Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals

President, Alaska Council of School Administrators





Brendan Wilson,
President
Begich Middle
School



Robin Jones
Past-President
Chief Ivan Blunka
School



Rick Dormer
President-Elect
Petersburg High
School



Roger Franklin
Region I Director
Shungnak School



Jennifer Mason
Region II Director
Peak and Cantwell
Schools



Heather Norton
Region III Director
Kodiak Middle
School



Robyn Harris
Region IV Director
Whaley High
School



Dave Dershin
Region VI Director
Randy Smith
Middle School



Shelli Lincoln
Region VIII Director
Burchell High School



Robyn Taylor
NAASSP Region
Coordinator
Hutchison High School



Clarice
Louden-Mingo
AP at Large
Lathrop High
School

School Safety



- ACSA supports improving the safety, physical and mental well-being of our children, knowing this is critical to increasing student achievement.
- ACSA supports increased funding through the Department of Education and Early Development's (DEED) school construction process for capital projects and major maintenance to existing school district facilities in order to provide students a safe and healthy learning environment.
- ACSA supports providing school communities and their school safety partners with quality information, resources, consultation, and training services.
- ACSA urges that all safety improvements including air and water quality be made a priority.

Eroding shoreline near Napakiak School



School Safety

- Adequate staffing and training for law enforcement and OCS is important for the safety of our staff and students.
- Several national polls find that at least one-third of educators have been physically or verbally threatened this year.
- The average school in Alaska is 40 years old. Water and air quality was already a concern before the pandemic.
- Providing a welcoming, caring environment remains the most effective way to make our students feel safe. School safety depends on having great educators, mental health supports, and up-to-date facilities.
- School safety is linked with every other important educational issue.



Preparing, Attracting, and Retaining Qualified Educators

- Retaining effective educators and leaders is imperative to increase student achievement and eliminate academic disparity for all of Alaska's students.
- ACSA strongly encourages the development of comprehensive statewide programs to prepare, attract, and retain high quality, diverse educators and professionals.
- ACSA further recommends strengthening statewide and national recruiting efforts along with a renewed commitment to growing our own educators, teachers, paraprofessionals, counselors, principals, and superintendents.
- ACSA supports aligned and accredited University of Alaska Schools of Education. Exploring innovative alternative pathways is paramount to attracting high quality educators to the state and the education profession to address Alaska's unique circumstances.
- A nationally competitive compensation and benefits package, combined with a robust state retirement system is imperative for attracting and retaining effective educators and leaders.

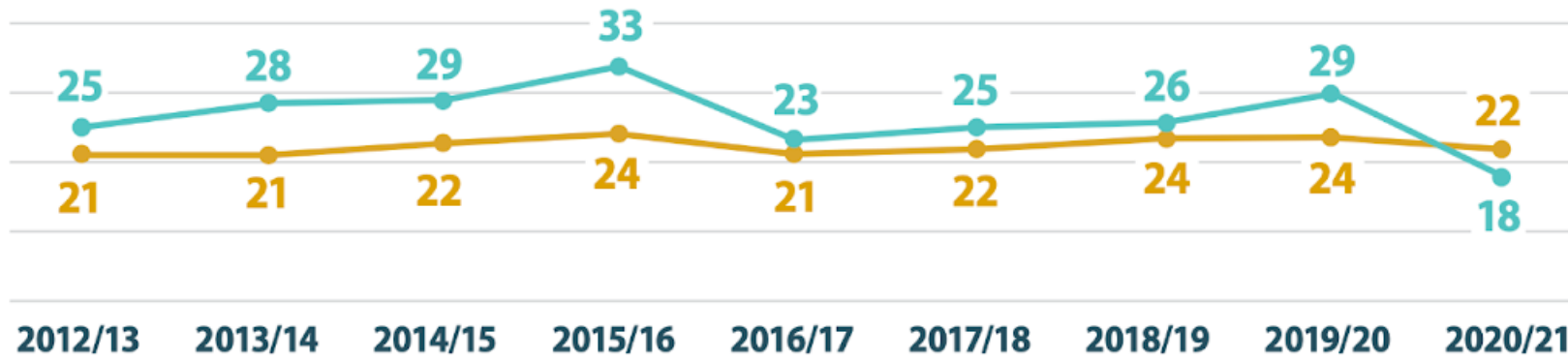


Preparing, Attracting, and Retaining Qualified Educators

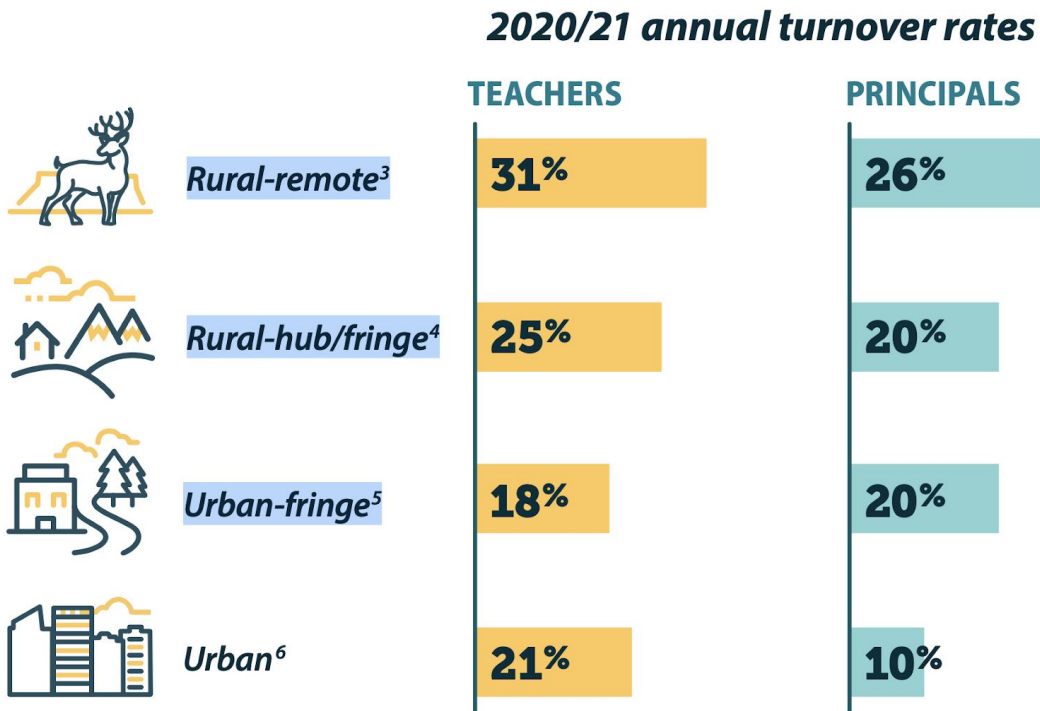
- A 2021 report by the Wallace Foundation found that after teachers, effective principals have the highest impact on student achievement.
- Effective principals are a key factor in teacher recruitment and retention.



Annual turnover rates (percent)



● Teachers ● Principals

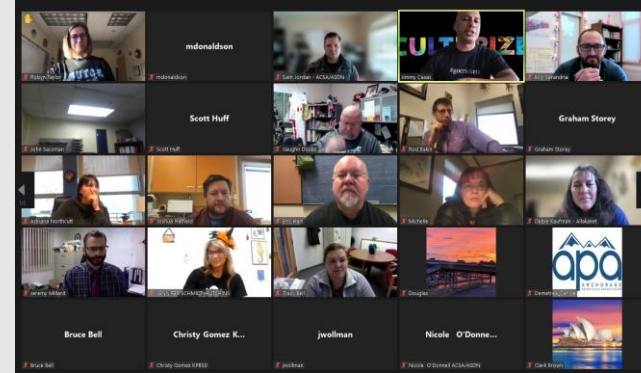


Preparing, Attracting, and Retaining Qualified Educators

Turnover rates for both teachers and principals reduced last year, but **the gap between urban and rural schools remains large.**



Alaska Statewide Leadership Development



Designed to provide early-career principals with a collegial cohort that is engaged in networking, skill building and mutual support.



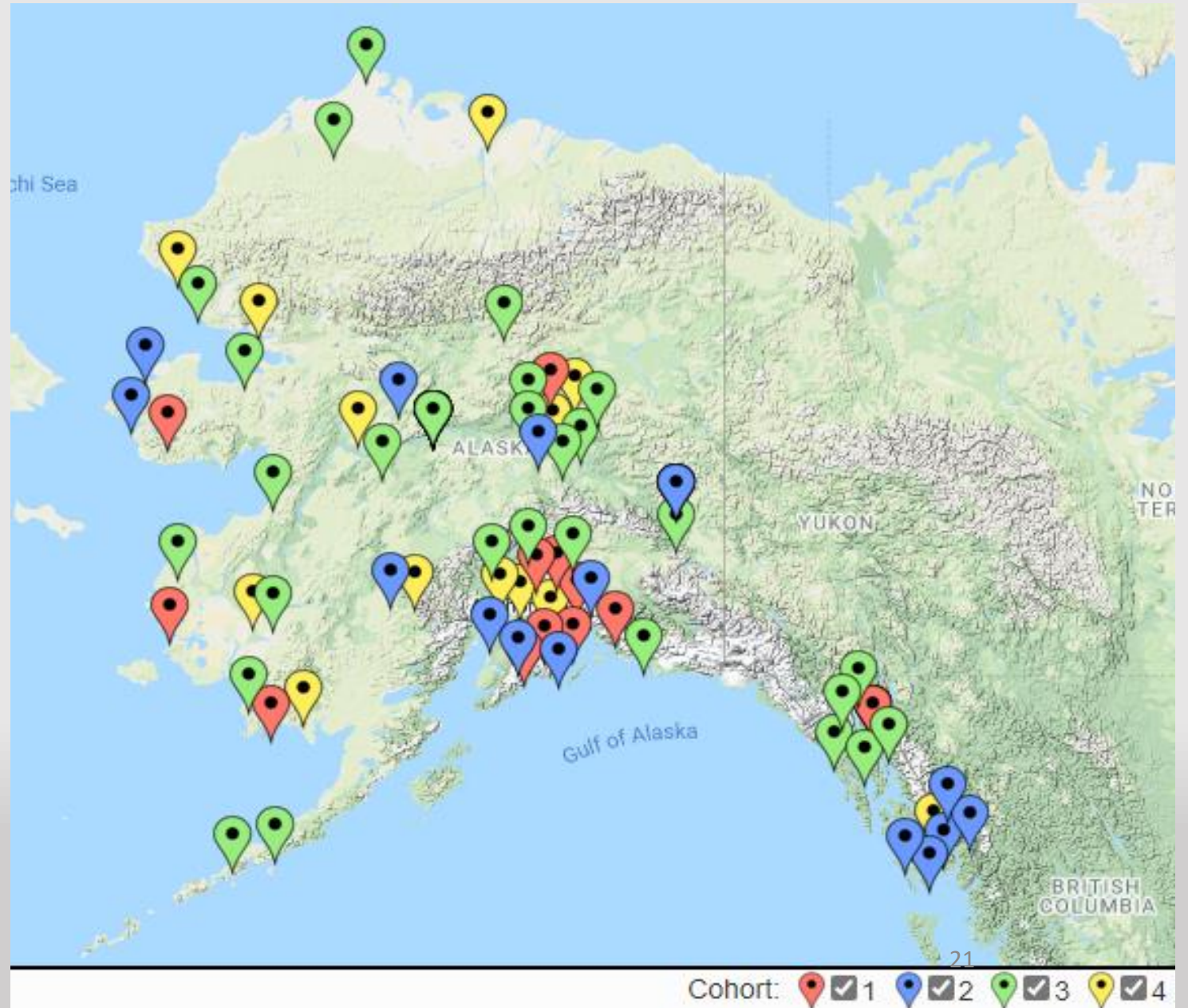
Principals Supported 2018 - 2021

- Four cohorts
- 2-year induction

103 New Principals

65% of Alaska School Districts

85 Alaska Schools



ASLA Design



**PERSONALIZED
MENTORING**



**PROFESSIONAL
NETWORKING**



**ADVANCEMENT OF
LEADERSHIP SKILLS**

The mutual value of mentoring

“The process of being a mentor is helping me be a better principal in my building with my staff. I am reflecting on how often I am guiding and supervising versus allowing staff to come up with answers. I have transferred some mentoring strategies to working with my own staff.”

In a single year:

33

Mentors

767

Mentor Contacts

509

Hours of Mentoring

Ways the State Can Help

- Continue to enhance our educator pipeline so we can enhance “grow our own.”
- Continue to explore alternative pathways to teacher certification.
- Invest in infrastructure that helps attract and keep teachers: better facilities, housing, and broadband are all factors in rural Alaska
- Help us get more competitive with compensation, especially by returning to a defined-benefit retirements system.



Principal Jennifer Rinaldi
President AAESP
Willow Elementary School





Jennifer Rinaldi
President, Mat-Su



Josh Gili
Pres. Elect, LKSD



Joanna Hinderberger
Vice Pres. Juneau



Linson Thompson
Treasurer, Anchorage



Eric Pederson
Past Pres. KPBSD



Aimee Kahler
Secretary, Anchorage



Doug Gray
State Rep. Anchorage

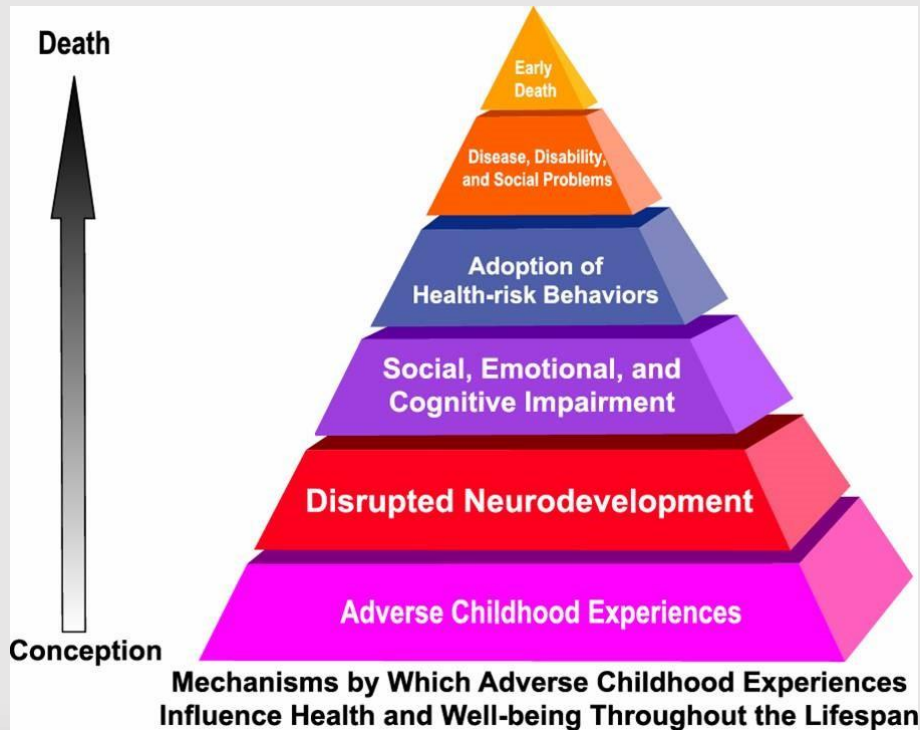


Shawna Henderson
Region Rep. Fairbanks



Jennifer Schmitz
AAESP Exec. Director

Social, Emotional and Mental Health



- Alaska's students endure extremely high rates of trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). The impact of COVID-19 has elevated many Alaskan students' ACEs scores.
- The trauma felt in our schools is not just limited to students; staff have also felt the impact of COVID-19 on their own social, emotional, and mental health. These issues have connections in other legislative priorities identified, such as attracting and retaining educators and access to health care.



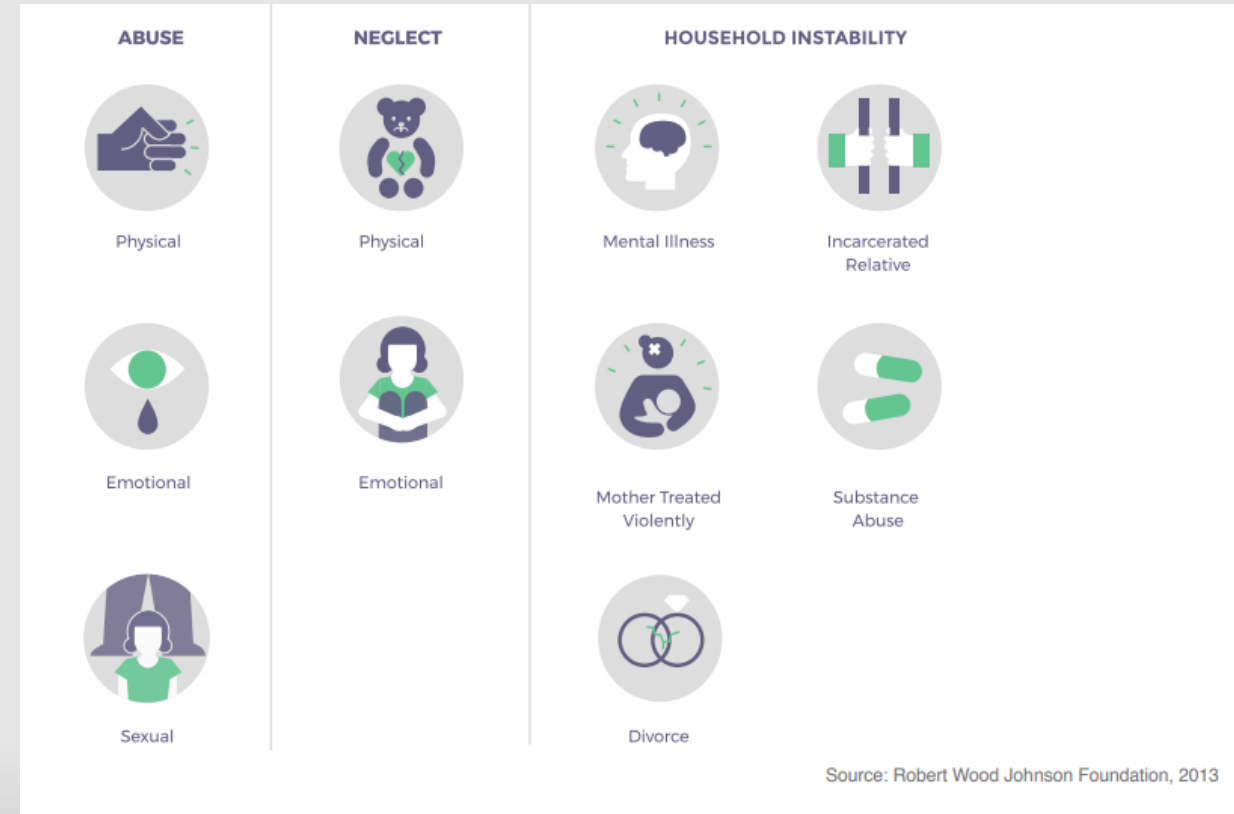
Social, Emotional, and Mental Health

- According to the Office of Children's Services, 3,142 children were mistreated in Alaska in 2019. This was the highest number they had seen in the past 5 years with an increase of 18% over that time.
- Alaskan children are 56% more likely to be abused compared to the national average. Additionally, Alaskan children have high rates of repeat child maltreatment which results in a great chance of encountering child welfare or the child entering the juvenile justice system.
- Data compiled from United Health Foundation and published in America's Health Rankings found that Alaska ranked as **the least-healthiest state** in terms of adolescent suicide, with a rate of 44.9 deaths per 100,000. In comparison, the two healthiest states were Massachusetts and New Jersey at 5.4 deaths per 100,000.
- The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services classifies adolescents as people between 12 and 19 years old. The suicide rate among Alaska Native adolescents nearly doubled from 2018 to 2019.



Social, Emotional, and Mental Health

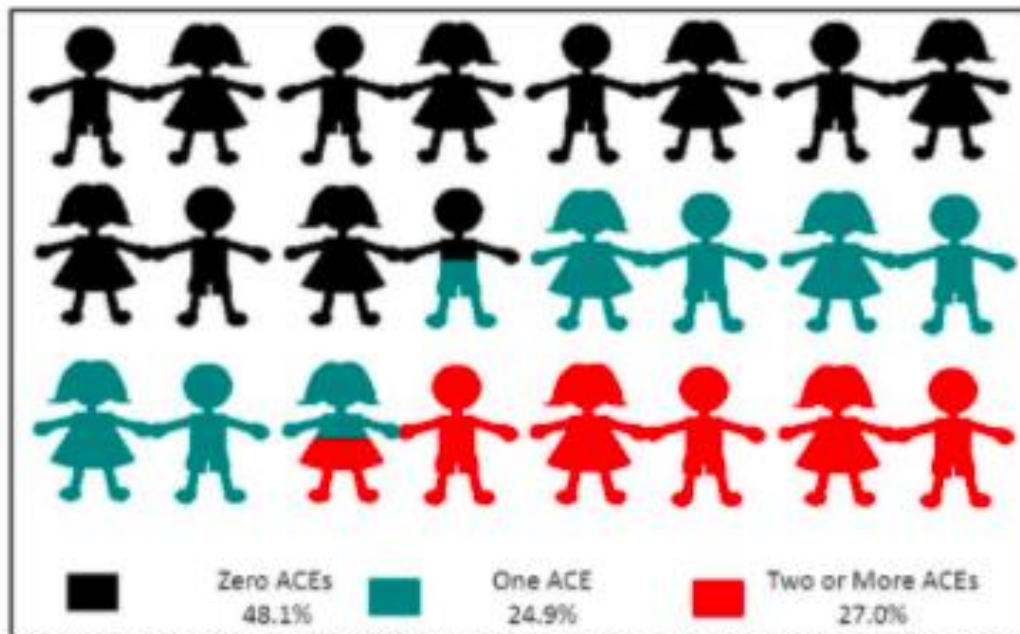
“Adverse Childhood Experiences” (ACEs) are stressful or traumatic experiences, including abuse, neglect, witnessing domestic violence, or growing up with substance abuse, mental illness, or a parent in jail.



Social, Emotional, and Mental Health

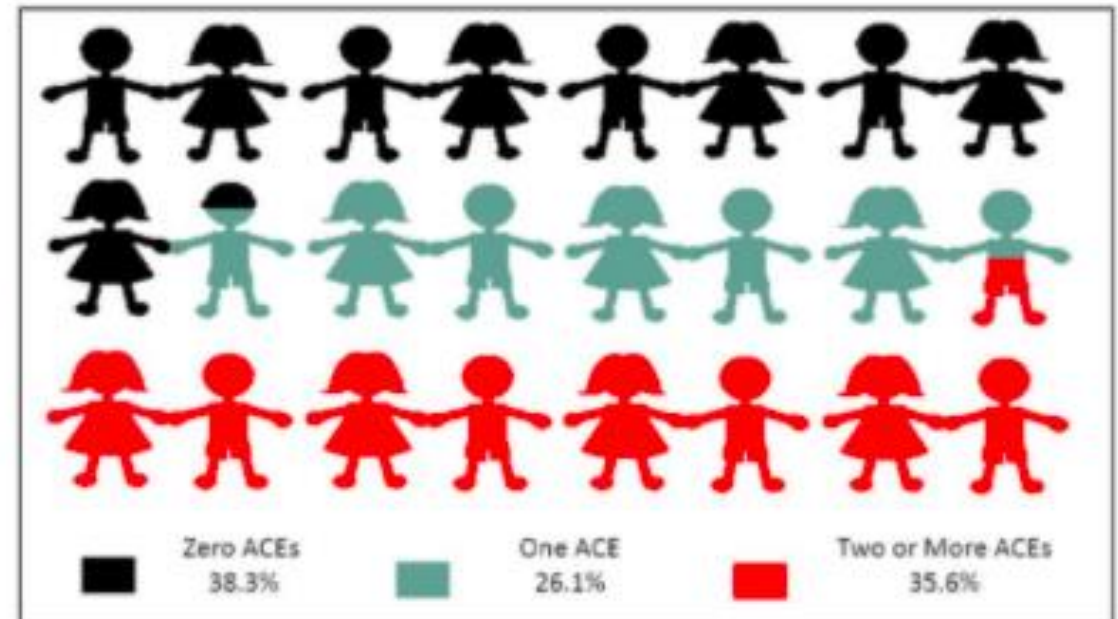
Alaska's students endure extremely high rates of trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), reflected in Alaska having the highest rate of teen suicide attempts in the nation.

Age 6-11 Year Olds by Number of ACEs in Alaska



Source: National Survey of Children's Health 2011/2012. Graphic created by the Alaska Mental Health Board/Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Staff

Age 12-17 Year Olds by Number of ACEs in Alaska



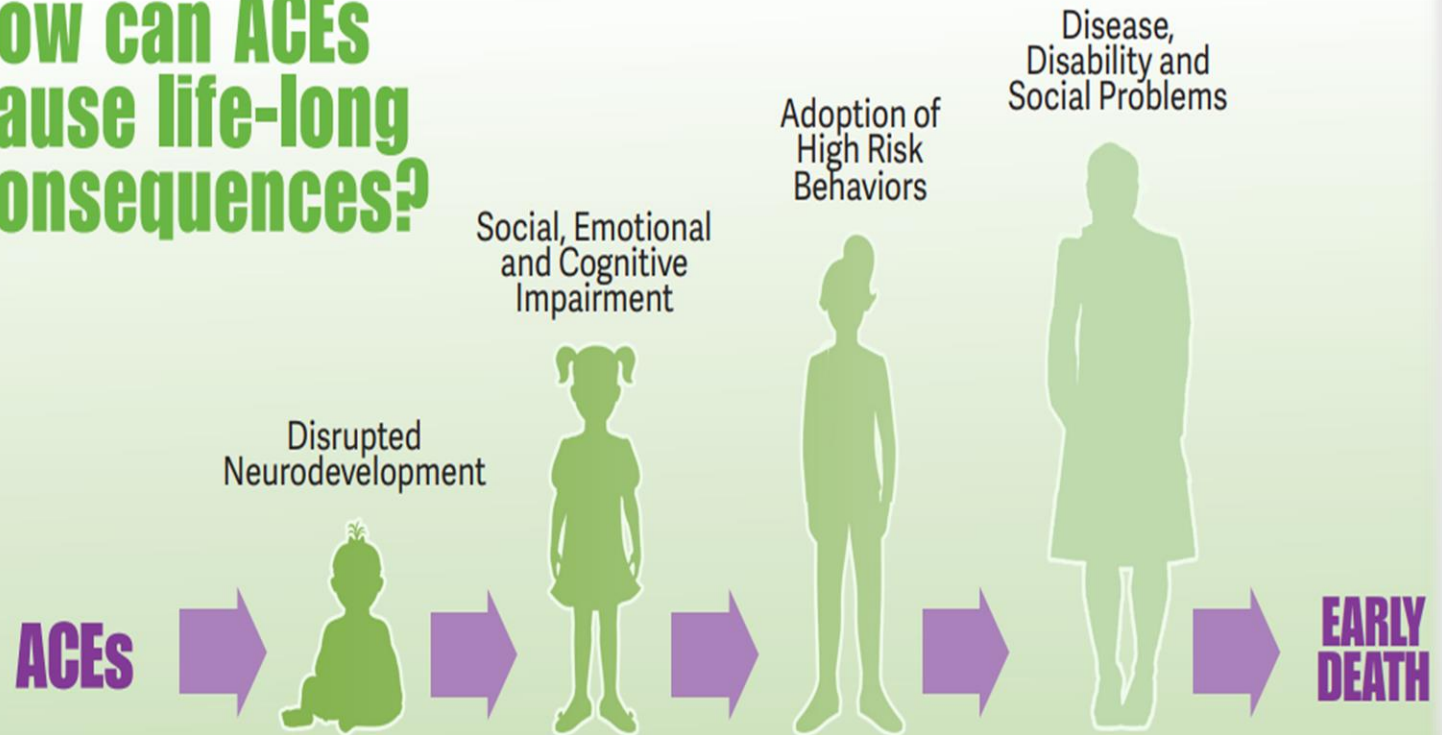
Source: National Survey of Children's Health 2011/2012. Graphic created by the Alaska Mental Health Board/Advisory Board on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Staff



Social, Emotional, and Mental Health

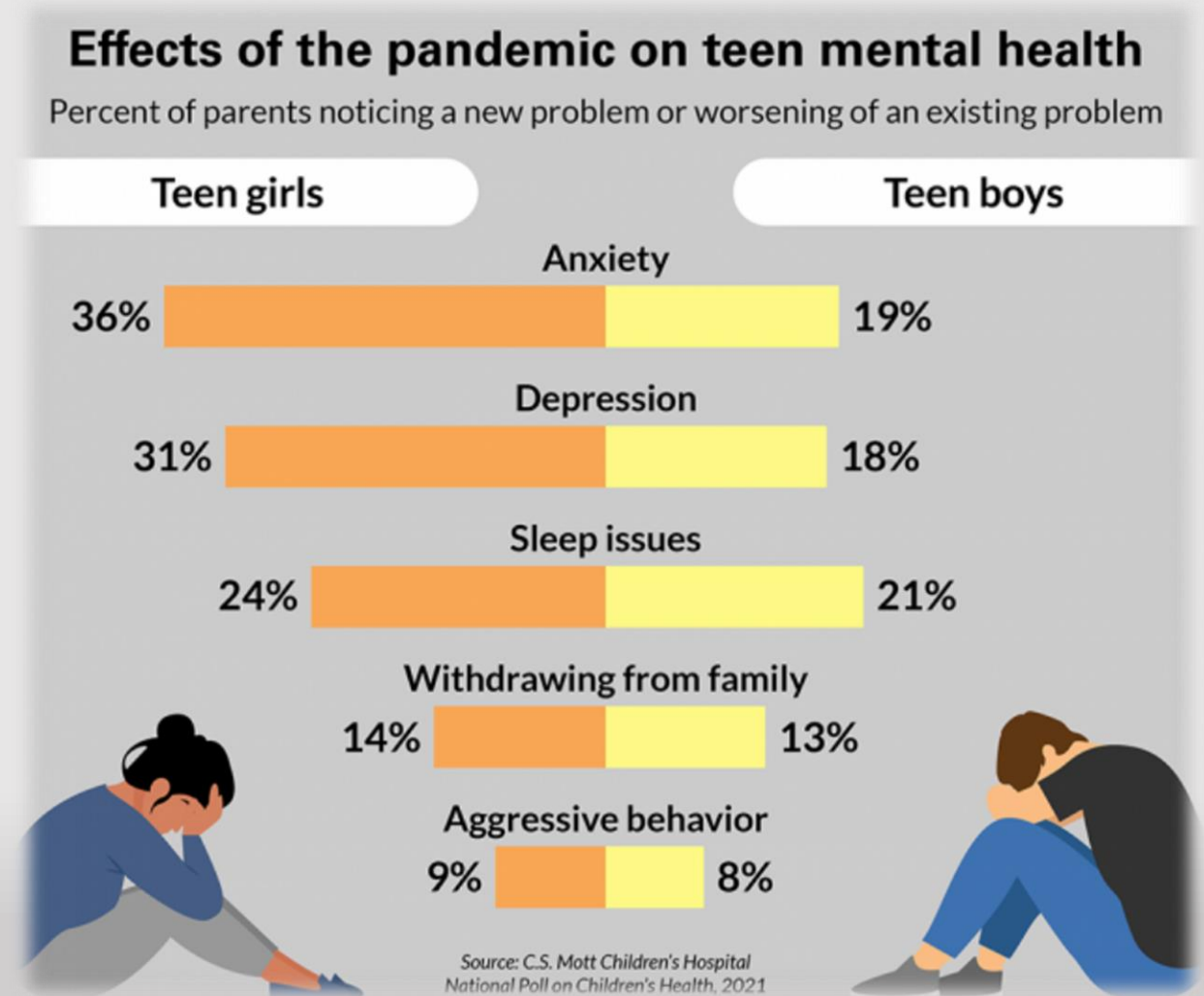
ACEs have life-long impacts

**How can ACEs
cause life-long
consequences?**



Social, Emotional, and Mental Health

COVID Implications



Social, Emotional, and Mental Health

Solutions:

- ACSA urges the state to provide funding and resources so schools can partner with local communities to implement comprehensive, culturally responsive, school-based mental health programs to foster the health and development of students.
- ACSA supports targeted funding to enable schools to recruit, retain, and increase students' access to school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, nurses, and mental health specialists and to provide additional professional development for all staff to meet the increasing and diverse needs of all students



Early Childhood Education



- According to the Alaska Developmental Profile, nearly 70% of Alaska's students enter kindergarten lacking foundational preparation for learning and reaching up to almost 90% in some communities. This includes over 50% of entering kindergarteners who lack critical foundations in literacy.
- ACSA supports the definition of elementary education to include universal Pre-K, thus ensuring equitable access to fully funded, sustainable, birth to age five learning programs and nutrition services.
- ACSA supports adequate, sustainable early childhood education and Pre-K funding as part of the base student allocation.



Early Childhood Education

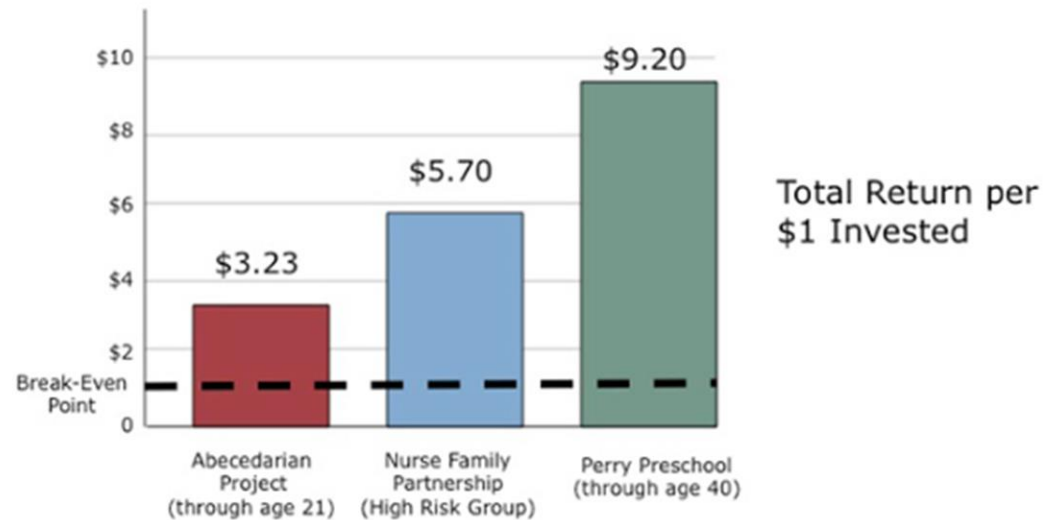
- According to a grant funded study (The Early Childhood Alaska project) recently published,
 - 15% of Alaska children birth through 5 years of age live in poverty; 29% in rural areas live in poverty
 - About 10% of children in Head Start/Early Head Start are homeless.
 - About 1/3 of Alaska kindergarteners meet 11 of 13 Alaska Developmental Profile standards,
- The Abecedarian Project (2021) demonstrated that young children who receive high-quality early education from infancy to age 5 do better in reading and math and are more likely to stay in school longer, graduate from high school, and attend a four-year college.
- Research also shows that quality early care and education help close achievement gaps so all children can thrive, enables parents and caregivers to work or study and increases economic mobility, underpins a robust economy, reduces need for special education, improves lifelong health and reduces rates of crime in adulthood.



Early Childhood Education



Cost/Benefit Analyses Show Positive Returns
Early Childhood Programs Demonstrating Range of Benefits to Society



Three rigorously studied early childhood programs, the Perry Preschool Project, the Abecedarian project, and the Nurse Family Partnership, show a range of sizable returns to the participants and to the public for every dollar invested. Source: Karoly et al (2005); Heckman et al (2009). Credit: Center on the Developing Child.



Early Childhood Education and Social, Emotional, and Mental Health

Early childhood programs don't just give our children a way to enter school ready to learn and to have a better chance at overall success in life, they can also help to reduce the cases of child abuse and neglect by working to support families and connecting them to agencies that provide education and support. Children from all socio-economic levels and backgrounds should have access to these resources.

Early childhood education programs in partnership with strong school counseling and mental health supports are fundamental in keeping students safe and providing them opportunities for success. Funding and supporting these programs will make our homes, towns, cities and state stronger and healthier places to be. There is no more important investment that could make a greater impact for our students and communities.



Andy Ratliff
President ALASBO
Anchorage School District



Senior Director, Office of Management and Budget



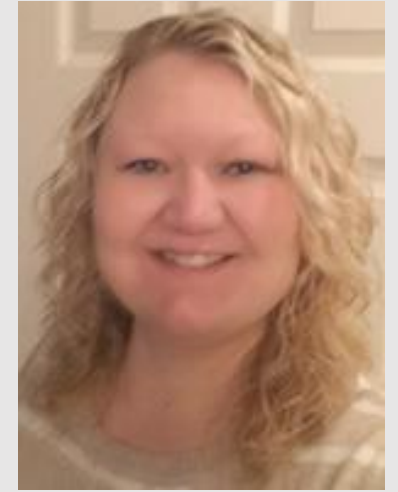
Andy Ratliff,
President
Anchorage School
District



Yodean Armour,
President-Elect
Klawock City School
District



Jimmy Love,
Past-President
Kenai Peninsula
Borough Schools



Cassee Olin,
Treasurer
Juneau School District



Heather Heinekin,
Secretary, Yukon
Koyukuk School
District



Phil Hulett,
Seat A
Dillingham School
District



Megan Williams,
Seat B
Northwest Arctic
Borough School
District



Robbie MacManus
Seat D
Alaska Gateway
School District



Katie Parrott
Seat E
Ketchikan Gateway
Borough School
District



David Nielsen
Seat F
Aleutians East
School District



Mission: To promote the highest standards in school business practices.

Vision: Educating stakeholders in the effective use of resources for the benefit of Alaska's children.

Values:

- Ethical standards
- Sharing knowledge and expertise
- Advancing the interests of all members
- Accurate, objective, consistent information
- Collegiality
- Efficiency
- Collaboration

Alaska Association of
School Business
Officials

<http://www.alasbo.org/introduction-to-alasbo/>

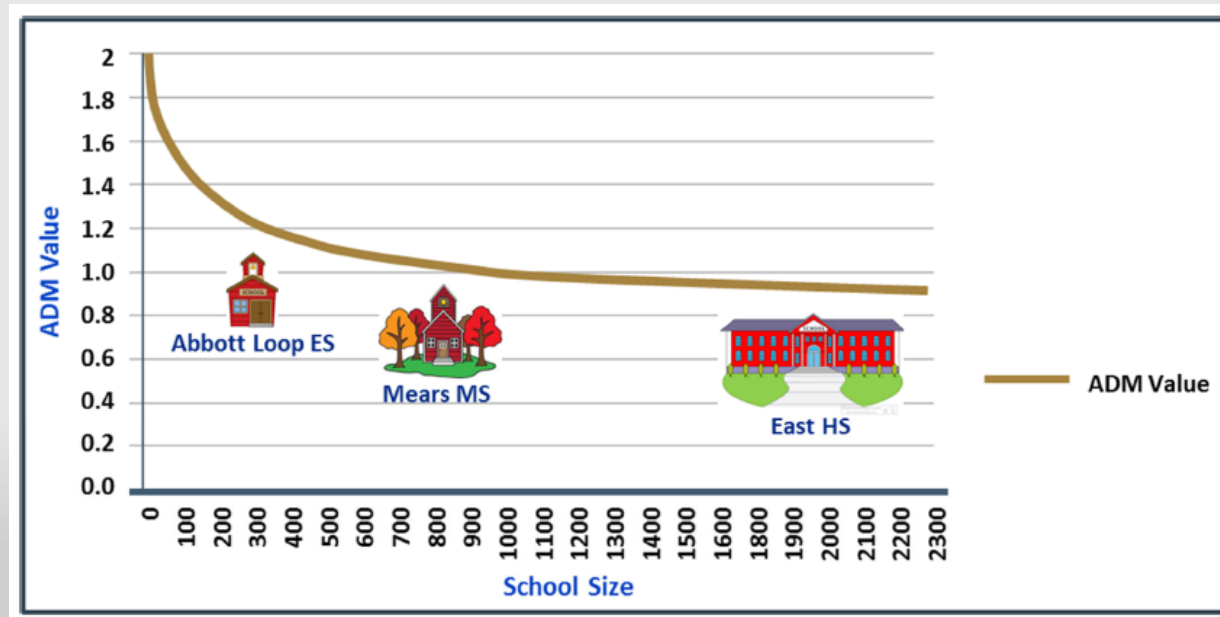
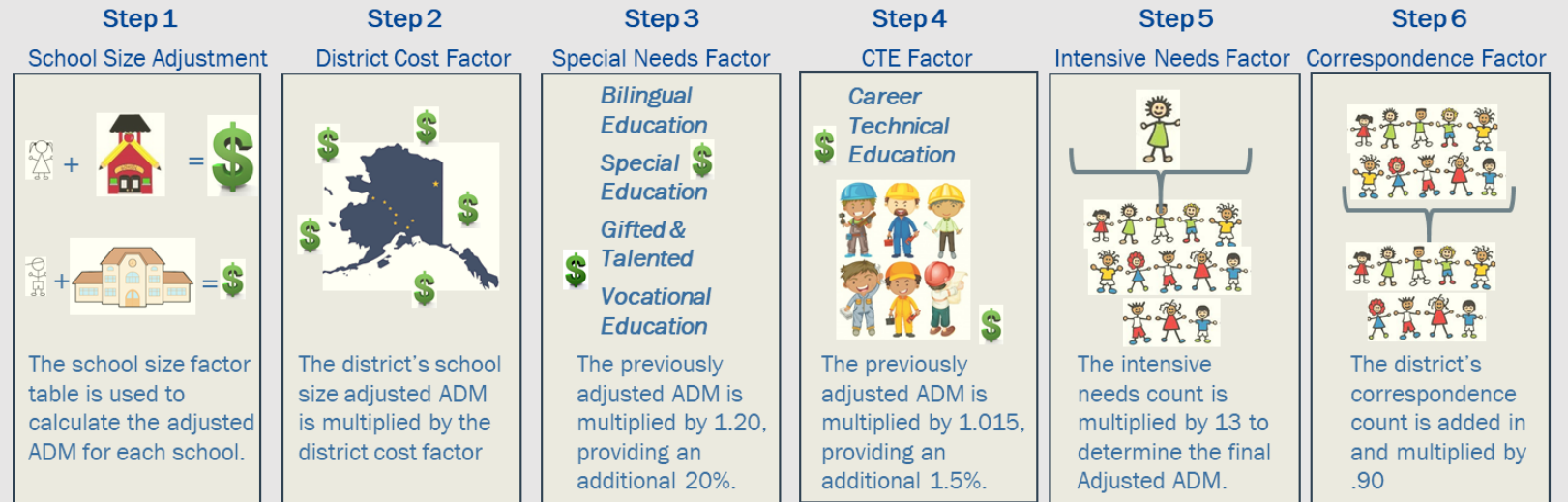


Priority Funding for Education

- The State of Alaska must provide timely, reliable, and predictable revenue for schools, funding the actual cost of education in all districts and providing full and equitable funding for all initiatives, laws, and mandates that require additional resources.
- Policy makers must recognize the diminishing value of flat funding in relation to inflation. Early notification of funding and forward funding are crucial to sound financial management, as well as recruitment and retention of quality educators.
- Diversified revenue streams are critical in the current fiscal climate to address any deficit and ensure the ability to fund service increases associated with economic development, inflation, and deferred maintenance capital requirements.
- ACSA opposes cost shifting state expenditure responsibilities to local governments



Foundation
Formula designed
to provide
equitable funding,
not equal funding

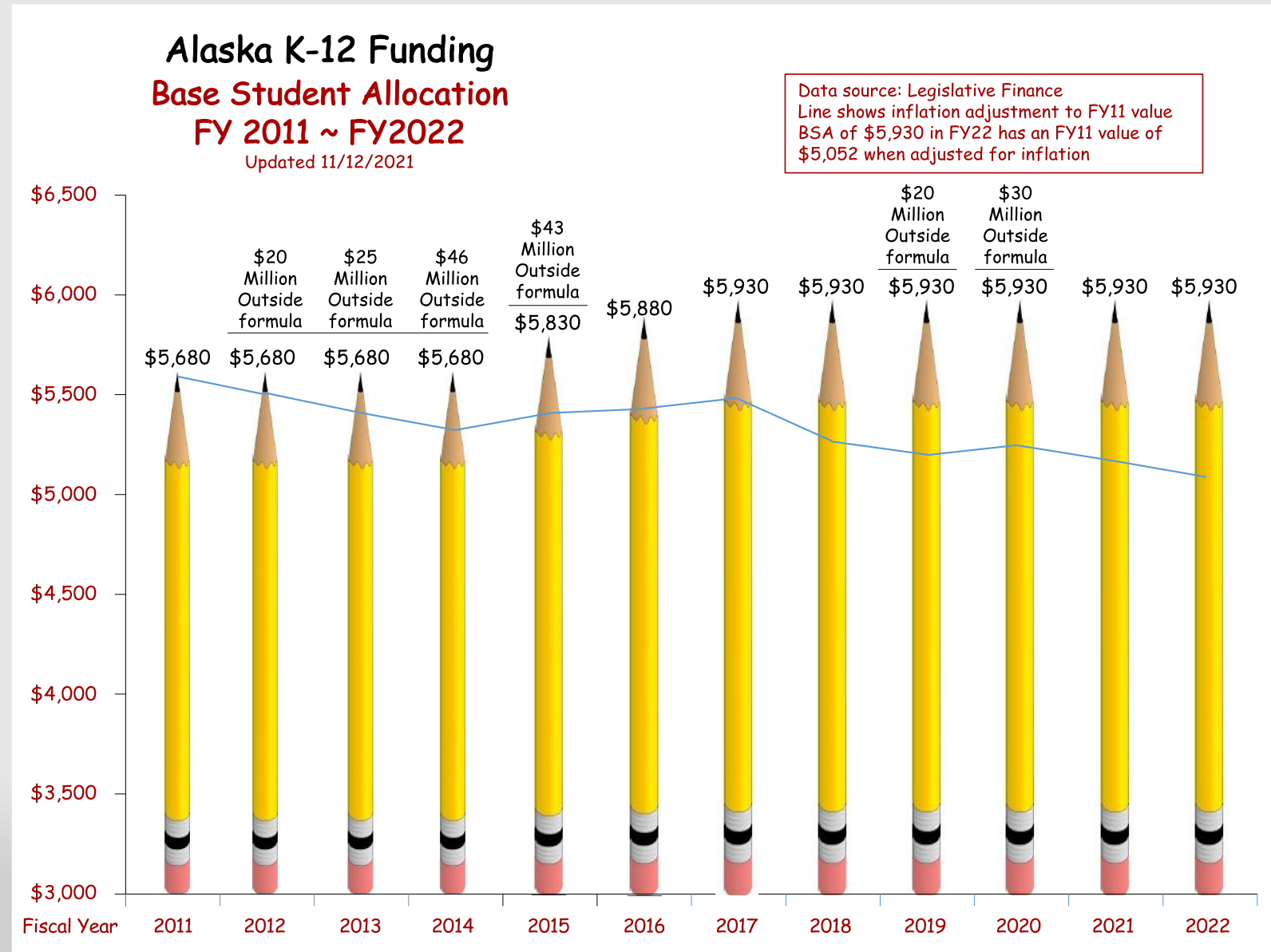


Data Source: Legislative Finance

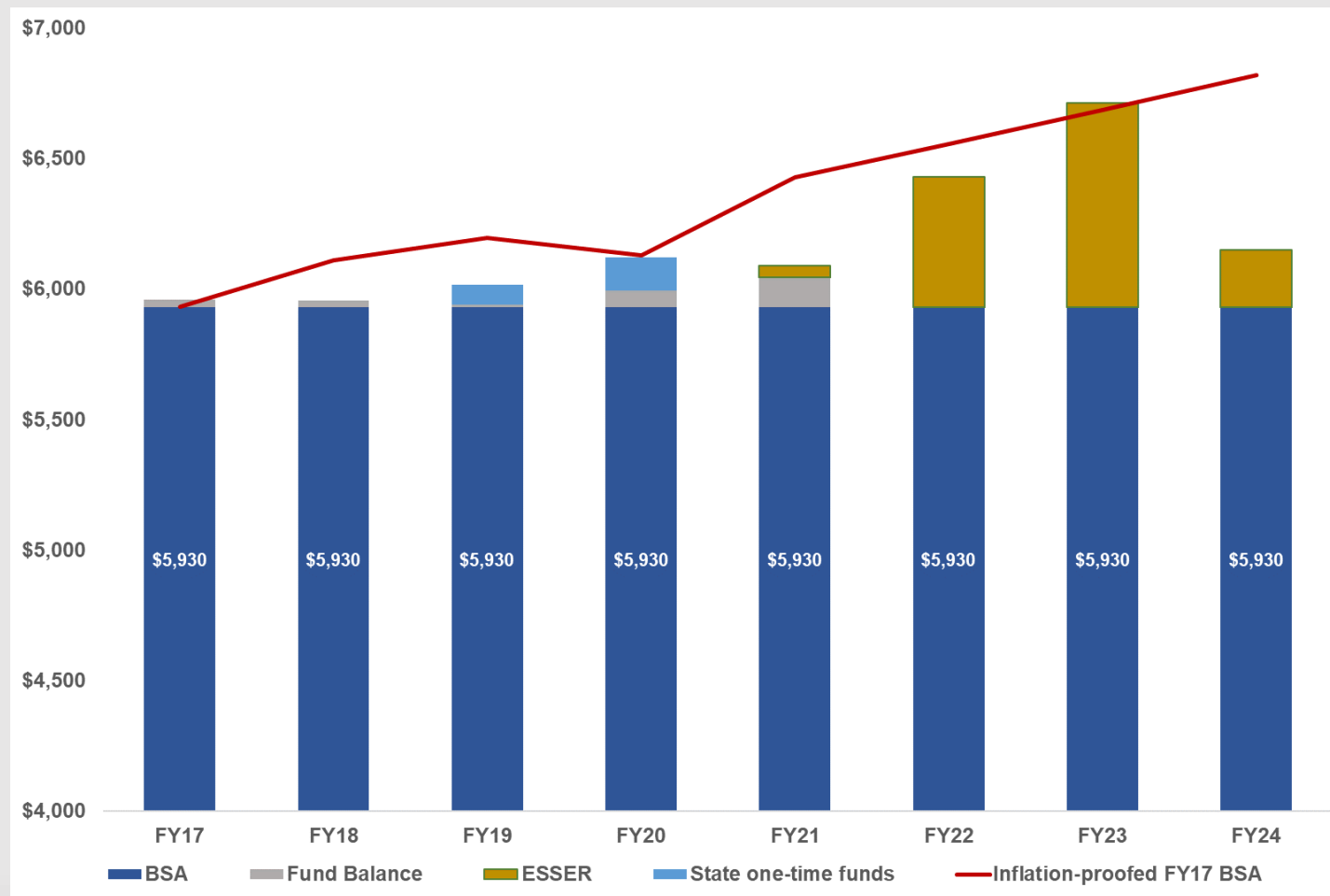
Current BSA \$5,930

**BSA Increased 4.4% from
2011 to 2022**

**Line shows inflation
adjustment to FY11 Value
BSA of \$5,930 in FY22 has
an FY11 Value of \$5,052
when adjusted for inflation**



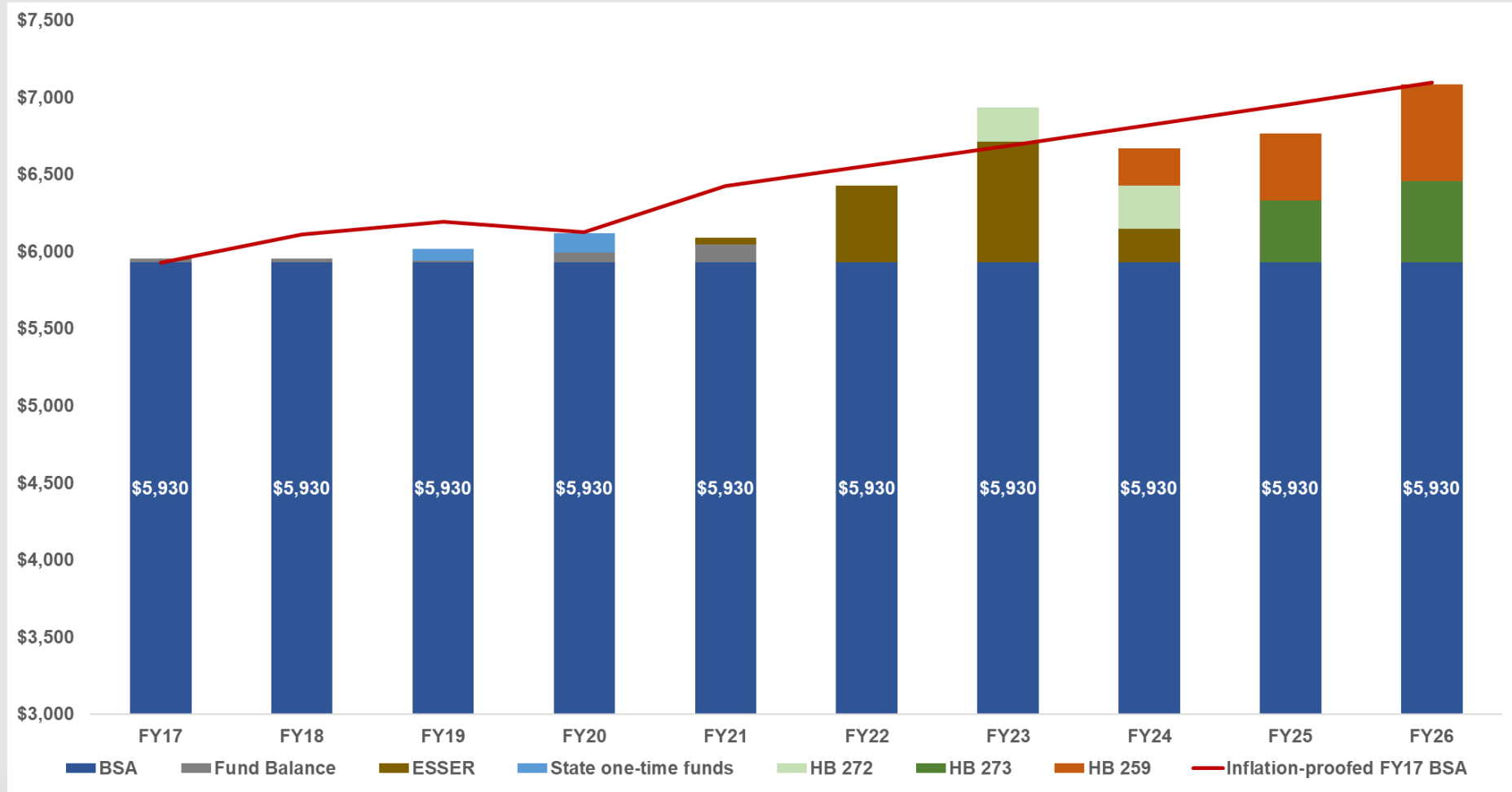
ASD School Funding Since 2017



- All types of revenue on this slide have been converted to BSA-equivalent dollars
- FYs 22-26 are using 2% CPI as a historical average, though FY22 will likely be much higher



ASD School Funding 2017-2026

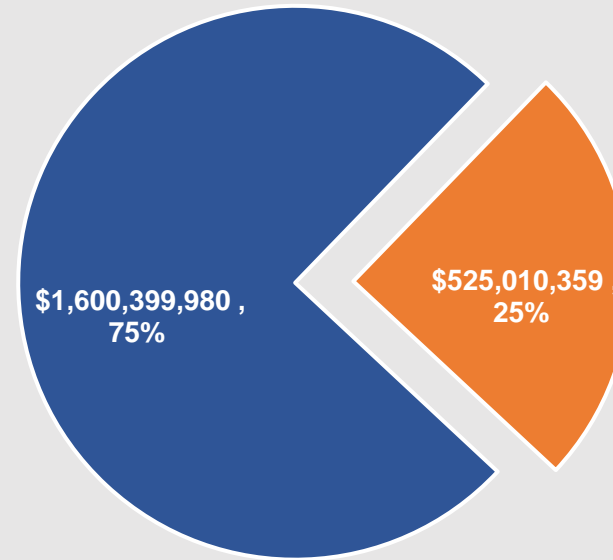


- All types of revenue on this slide have been converted to BSA-equivalent dollars
- FYs 22-26 are using 2% CPI as a historical average, though FY22 will likely be much higher



**Combined Alaska School Districts
General Fund (School Operating Fund)
Budgeted Expenditures - Fiscal Year 2022**

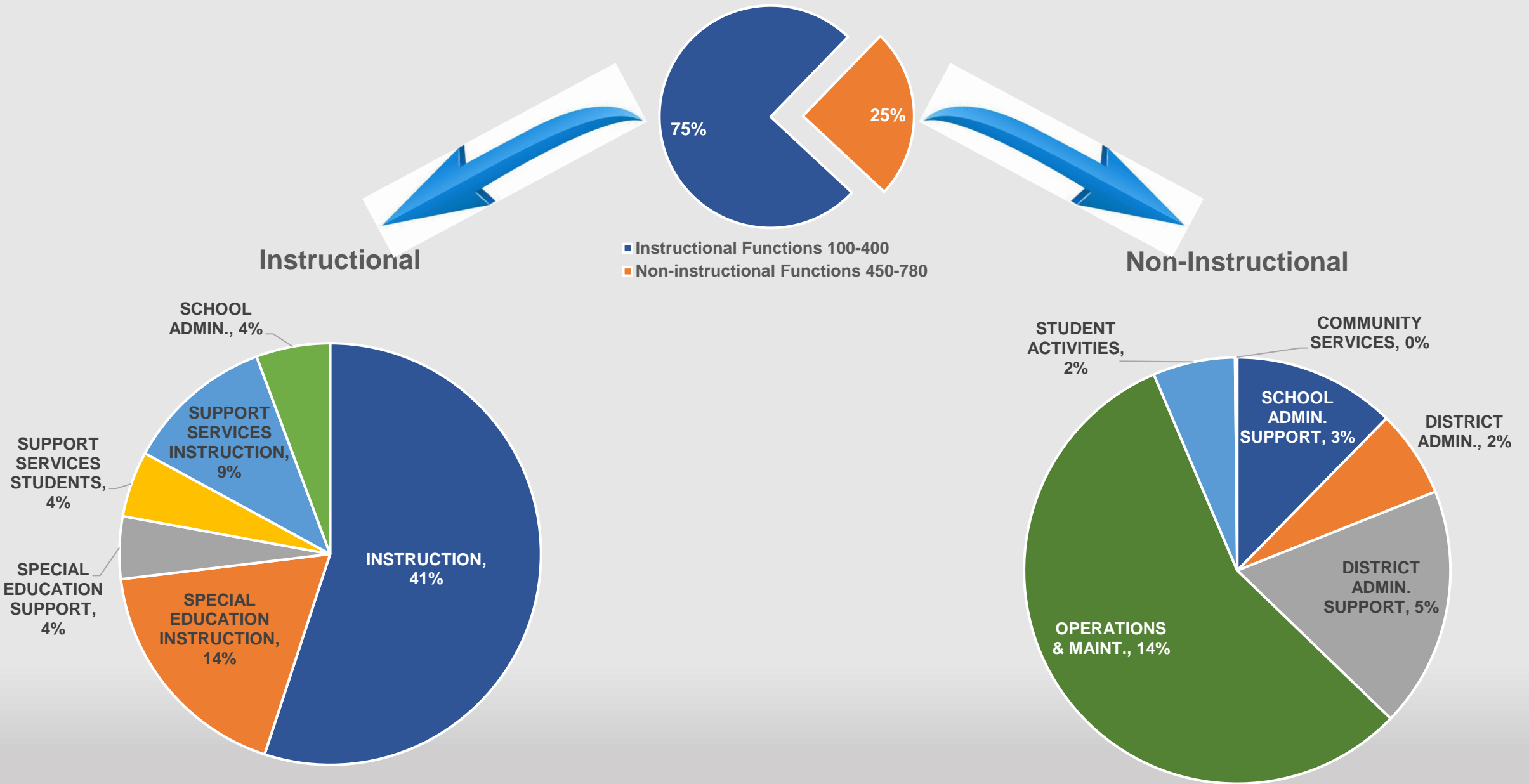
**FY2022
Total Budgeted
Expenditures for
all Districts**



■ Instructional Functions 100-400 ■ Non-instructional Functions 450-780

Source: <https://education.alaska.gov/schoolfinance/budgetsactual>
Select: 2022 Under Expenditures





Source: <https://education.alaska.gov/schoolfinance/budgetsactual>

Select: 2022 Under **Expenditures**

Costs are Higher in Alaska

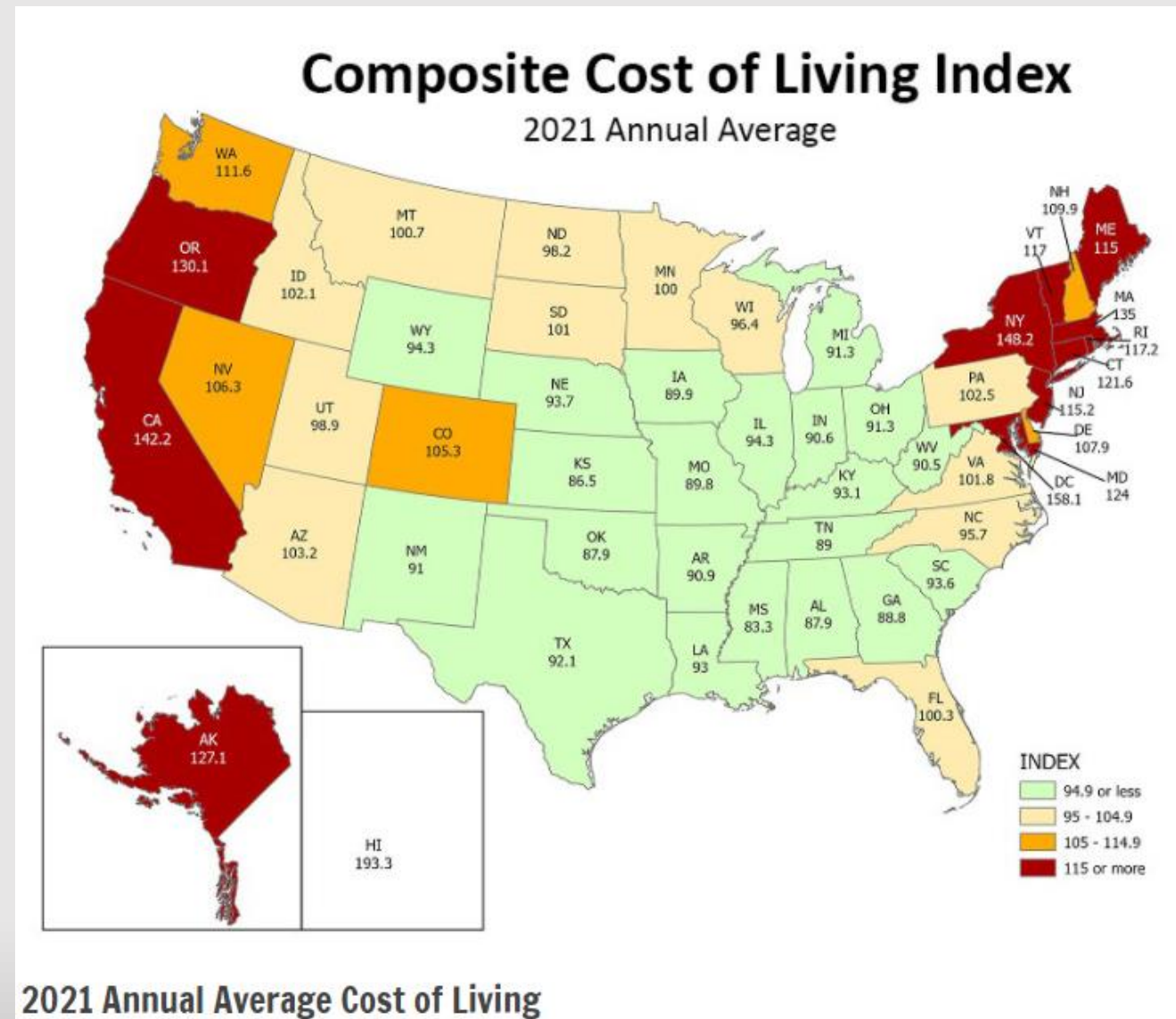
**CPI Increased by
11.5% from 2011 to
2021**

- Alaskan **health care costs** are the most expensive in the nation. Examples of other school district annual benefit costs per employee:
 - Atlanta (\$11,340)
 - Seattle (\$12,312)
 - Portland (\$15,341 - \$18,662 depending on bargaining group)
 - Anchorage (\$21,000)
 - Matsu (\$23,525)
 - Kenai Peninsula (\$26,600)
 - Lower Yukon (\$38,110)
- High cost of **workers' compensation**; direct correlation with health care costs.
- Higher **energy costs** vary widely between urban and rural areas of the State.
- Nationwide increases in liability insurance
- Must provide teacher housing in remote school districts.
- Shipping and transportation costs are very high.



Factors Affecting the Cost of Operations In Alaska

- Most geographically dispersed state in the nation
- Fuel and supplies must be delivered in the summer when rivers or oceans are open or it must be flown in, increasing total cost
- Impact of reduced and/or eliminated Alaska Marine Highway System
- Increasing reliance on air transportation by school districts for supplies, staff, and students



Additional Education Business Resources

- Legislative Budget & Audit Reports:
<http://lba.akleg.gov/documents/publications/>
- DEED Uniform Chart of Accounts:
https://education.alaska.gov/publications/chart_of_accounts.pdf
- Alaska Association of School Business Officials (ALASBO):
<http://www.alasbo.org/>
- [Comparison of Alaska K-12 Expenditures to National Averages:](http://www.alasbo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/White-Paper-Alaska-compared-to-US-Average-JAN-2020-final.pdf)
<http://www.alasbo.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/White-Paper-Alaska-compared-to-US-Average-JAN-2020-final.pdf>



Sam Jordan

Grants and Outreach Administrator
Alaska Staff Development Network



Alaska's Statewide Resource for Professional Development for almost 40 years!



Our Mission: To improve student achievement by providing researched-based professional development programs for Alaska's teachers and school administrators.

Annually we:

- Host almost **6,000** overall professional learning registrations, serving more than 3,000 educators --almost **40%** of the classroom teachers in Alaska.
- Serve over **2,500** with online classes. We Offer **80** self-paced, high-quality professional development courses.
- Offer **8** webinar series with national education experts that serve almost 1,000 Alaskan educators
- Host the largest K-12 professional development conference in Alaska with **1 in 10 Alaskan educators** in attendance



Alaskan Education Conferences



Annual RTI / MTSS Effective Instruction Conference

- Served **almost 1,300** Alaskan educators from 44 districts in 2022
- Largest statewide PK-12 Conference in Alaska
- Cost savings for districts to stay in-state and receive high quality professional learning

Alaskan Education Conferences



Alaska School Leadership Institute (ASLI)
*- Supporting Rural and Small School
Leadership*

2021 ALASKA SCHOOL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

PREPARING FOR THE FALL FORECAST

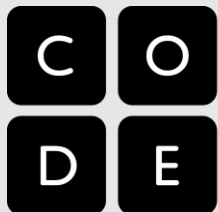
**ON THE REBOUND:
RETHINKING OUR CLASSROOMS**

**VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
JUNE 2-4**



KEYNOTES:
JOHN HATTIE
PETER DEWITT
LEXIE DOMARADZKI
NANCY FREY





Code.org®
Regional Partner

Code.org

2020/2021 School Year Accomplishments

NUMBER OF
PROFESSIONAL
LEARNING PROGRAMS
PROVIDED

22

NEW TEACHERS
TRAINED THROUGH
CODE.ORG

228

ALASKAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS
WITH ONE OR MORE TEACHERS
READY TO TEACH COMPUTER
SCIENCE

42/54

PERCENTAGE OF
FEMALE STUDENTS
PARTICIPATING
IN CODING

49%

ALASKAN STUDENTS
WITH CODE.ORG
ACCOUNTS

73,429

Our sponsors make it happen!



Persevering Together

Our Alaskan Schools Blog



Sharing the Great Things Happening in Alaska's Schools

3 Years of stories from Alaska's classrooms and schools

'The Our Alaskan Schools Blog Turns Three!' by the Staff at ASDN

Home → School Story → 'The Our Alaskan Schools Blog Turns Three!' by the Staff at ASDN

 ouralaskanschools on January 20, 2022

It's hard to believe it, but the Our Alaskan Schools Blog turns three this month! In 2021, we featured 25 stories of schools and classrooms around the state. Here are some of the highlights of the stories we featured this past year.



[Home – Explore All Posts Here](#)



Archives

[March 2022](#)

[February 2022](#)

[January 2022](#)

[December 2021](#)

[November 2021](#)

[October 2021](#)

[September 2021](#)

[August 2021](#)

[June 2021](#)

[May 2021](#)

[April 2021](#)

[March 2021](#)

[February 2021](#)

[January 2021](#)



Persevering Together

Thank you!



Questions?

