



# State of PK-12 Education in Alaska

Presented by  
District and PK-12 Education Leaders

**Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA)**

*Leadership, Unity, and Advocacy for Public Education*



Dr. Lisa S. Parady  
Executive Director  
Alaska Council of School Administrators

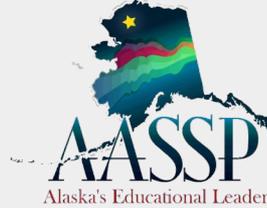


**\*50 year old private, non-profit organization**





Alaska Superintendents Association



Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals



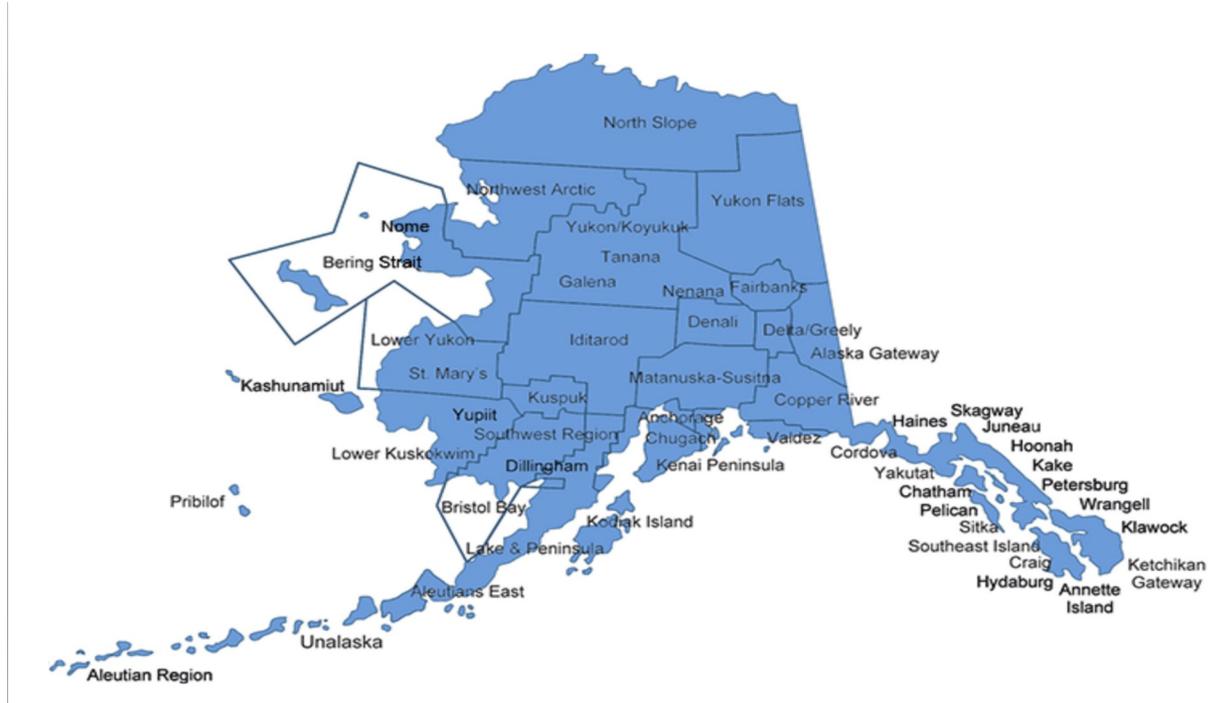
Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals



Alaska Association School Business Officials

*Leadership, Unity, and Advocacy for Public Education*

# One State, 54 School Districts



# ACSA Joint Position Statements: Unified Priorities for Supporting Alaska's Students

## Developed Collaboratively by:

- Superintendents
- PK-12 Principals
- School Business Officials
- Educators from across Alaska

The logo for the Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA) is centered at the top. It features a stylized umbrella shape with the acronym 'ACSA' in large letters inside. Above the umbrella, it says 'ALASKA COUNCIL OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS'. Below the umbrella, there are four smaller logos representing different organizations: ASASA, AASSP, and two others with circular emblems.

Alaska Council  
of School Administrators

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2023 JOINT POSITION  
STATEMENTS

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

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

# Superintendent Dr. Bridget Weiss

Alaska Superintendents Association President  
Juneau School District





Dr. Bridget Weiss,  
President  
Superintendent  
Juneau School  
District

Kerry Boyd, Past-  
President  
Superintendent  
Juneau School  
District

Dr. Roy Getchell,  
President-Elect  
Superintendent  
Haines Borough  
School District

Scott MacManus,  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Superintendent  
Alaska Gateway  
School District

Patrick Manning  
Director, Seat A  
Superintendent  
Nenana City  
School District

Dan Polta,  
Director, Seat B  
Superintendent  
Denali School  
Borough School  
District

# Alaska Superintendents Association 2022-2023 Board of Directors



Terri Walker,  
Director, Seat C  
Superintendent  
Northwest Arctic  
Borough School  
District



Kasie Luke,  
Director, Seat D  
Superintendent  
Lake And  
Peninsula School  
District



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



Clayton Holland  
AASA Governing  
Board  
Kenai Peninsula  
Borough School  
District



Frank Hauser,  
AASA Governing  
Board  
Sitka School  
District



Bill Hill  
Advisory Board  
Member  
Bristol Bay  
Borough School  
District



# Priority Funding for Public Education

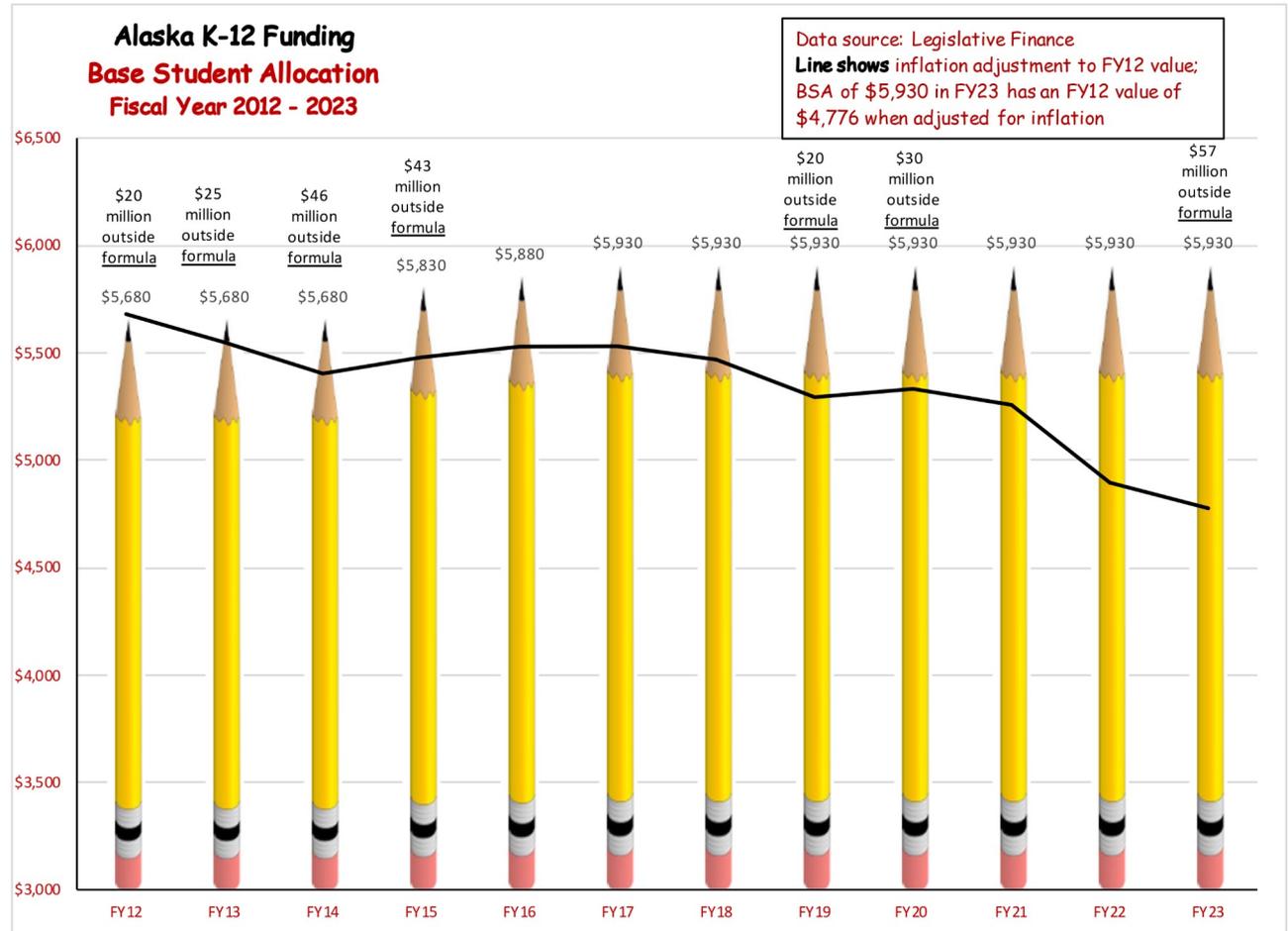
The State of Alaska must provide **timely, reliable, and predictable revenue** for schools, funding the actual cost of education in all districts and providing full and equitable funding for all initiatives, laws, and mandates that require additional resources. **Early notification of funding and predictable funding are crucial to sound financial management, as well as recruitment and retention of quality educators.**

Policymakers must recognize that **continued flat funding coupled with historic 40 year high inflation creates a loss of purchasing power** that schools cannot sustain while keeping achievement high and meeting legislative requirements.

\*Page 2 ACSA Joint Position Statements



# Flat Funded BSA vs. Inflation



# Education is Accountable

- Special Education Audits
- State Monitoring of Federal Programs
- DEED Report Card Shared with the Public
- Other Alaska Student ID System (OASIS) Reporting
- Attendance and Achievement Data for Indian Education Grants
- Program Audits

## Alaska's Public Schools: A Report Card to the Public: 2021-2022

### Juneau Borough School District

Overview
Financial Data
Attendance, Graduation, and Dropout Rates
Educator Quality
Civil Rights Data Collection
Postsecondary Enrollment
Accountability Indicators
Access to Technology Data

**District Enrollment** 4,372  
**School Year** 2021-2022

This School Report Card presents information about the school's performance for the 2021-2022 school year. During this first administration of The Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR) assessment students in grades 3-9 were assessed in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Students in grades 5, 8, and 10 took the Alaska Science Assessment.

In June of 2021, DEED submitted an [application](#) to US ED to make temporary changes to the System for School Success, Alaska's accountability plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act. [Approval](#) for the changes was received in August 2021.

As part of the ongoing implementation of Alaska's Education Challenge, the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) is working with school districts to support success in every school. Utilizing Alaska's plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) as a strategy for closing our achievement gaps, the accountability system is implemented to help celebrate success and identify areas where additional support is needed, with the goal of increasing achievement for all students. The Overall School Index Value is an important piece of the System for School Success, which provides information about how each school is supporting its students. Please see the [Guide to the System for School Success](#) for a more complete description.



## District Expenditures: District Administration

	Anchorage School District	Fairbanks North Star School District	Juneau School District	Kenai School District	Mat-Su School District
District Administration	1.1%	1.4%	1%	.88%	.4%



# Educator Turnover

## The PK-12 Instability Equation

## Superintendent Turnover

+ Principal Turnover

+ Teacher Turnover

**Instability**



# New Superintendent Induction and Support Program



- 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



# New Superintendent Induction and Support Program



- Since the program began 4 years ago
  - 72% of superintendents have participated in the program
  - 100% of 2021-2022 first year superintendents returned to their position this school year
  - 80% of this cohort on track to return for their third year

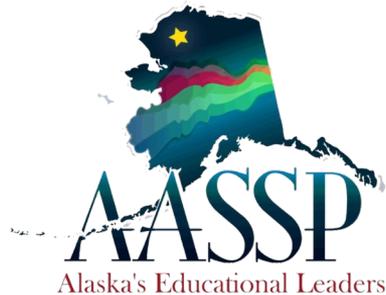


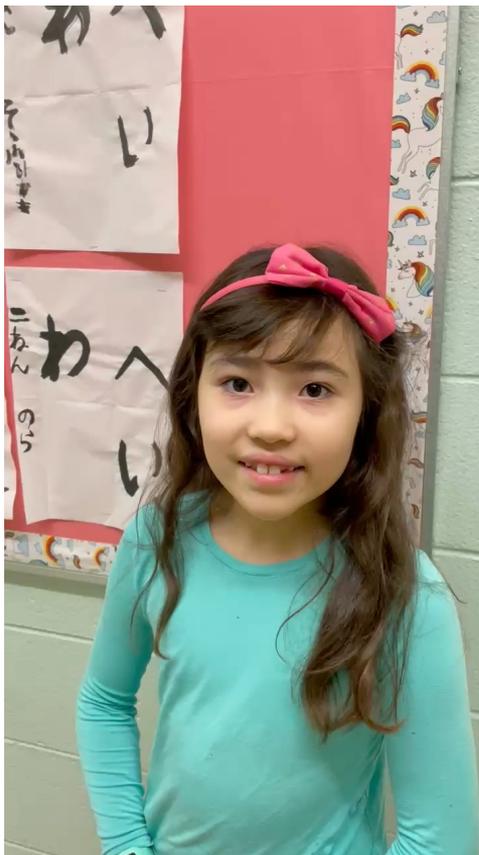
# What our schools could look like...



# Principal Brendan Wilson

President, Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals  
Past President Alaska Council of School Administrators  
**Begich Middle School**







**Brendan Wilson**  
President  
Anchorage  
School District



**Robin Jones**  
Past-President  
Southwest Region  
School District



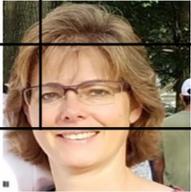
**Rick Dormer**  
President-Elect  
Ketchikan Gateway Borough  
School District



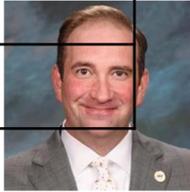
**Roger Franklin**  
Region I Director  
Northwest Arctic Borough  
School District



**Jennifer Mason**  
Region II Director  
Denali Borough  
School District



**Heather Norton**  
Region III Director  
Kodiak Island Borough  
School District



**David Nogg**  
Region IV Director  
Anchorage School District



**Lillian Boron**  
Region V Director  
Haines Borough School District



**Dave Dershin**  
Region VI Director  
Fairbanks North Star  
Borough School District



**Chad Martin**  
Region VII Director  
Southwest Region  
School District



**Megan Raanes**  
Region VIII Director  
Matanuska-Susitna Borough  
School District



**Robyn Taylor**  
NASSP Region VII  
State Coordinator  
Fairbanks North Star  
Borough School District

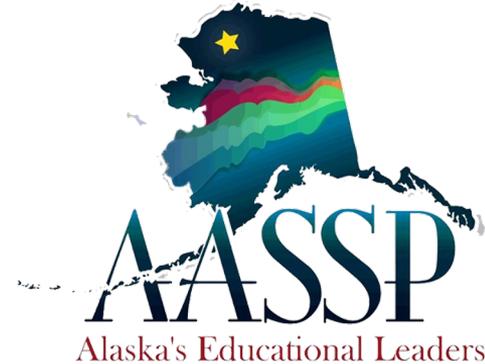


**Clarice Loudon-  
Mingo**  
AP at Large Director  
Fairbanks North Star  
Borough School District



**Dr. Lisa S. Parady**  
AASSP Executive Director

# Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals 2022-2023 Board of Directors



# PREPARING, ATTRACTING AND RETAINING QUALIFIED EDUCATORS

ACSA strongly encourages the development of comprehensive statewide programs to prepare, attract, and retain high quality, diverse educators, and professionals. **Retaining highly effective educators and leaders is imperative to increase student achievement and eliminate academic disparity for all of Alaska's students.**

**According to a survey done by the Governor's Teacher Retention and Recruitment Task Force, of over 3700 Alaskan educators, the top 2 issues related to retention status are: Salary and Benefits**

\*Page 6 ACSA Joint Position Statements



# PREPARING, ATTRACTING AND RETAINING QUALIFIED EDUCATORS

## Teachers and principals prepared outside Alaska continue to be more likely to turn over

In 2020/21, teachers and principals who were prepared outside of Alaska continued to have higher turnover rates than those prepared in Alaska. This has important implications for state policy related to educator licensure and preparation.

### 2020/21 annual turnover rates

#### TEACHERS

**19%** prepared in Alaska vs. **23%** prepared outside Alaska

#### PRINCIPALS

**15%** prepared in Alaska vs. **22%** prepared outside Alaska



# SCHOOL SAFETY

ACSA advocates for safe and secure schools as a catalyst for the prevention of school crime and violence. We emphasize the importance of preventative as well as reactionary measures to ensure school safety.

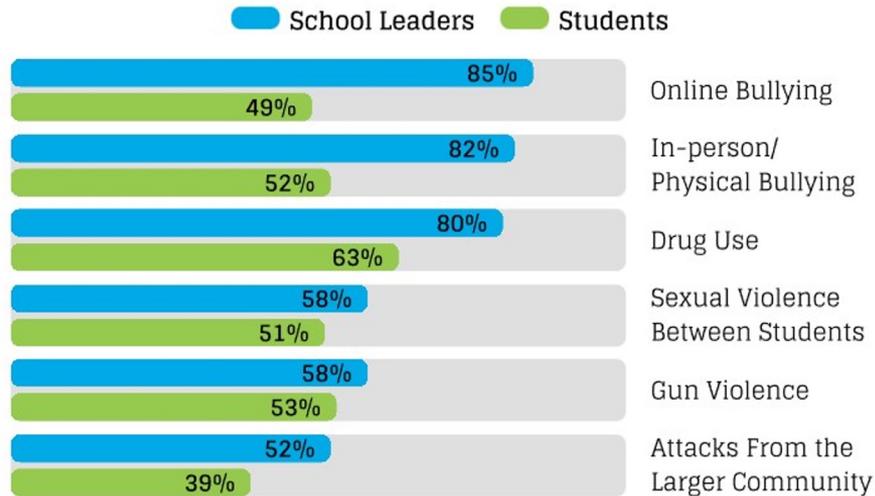
**ACSA supports improving the safety, physical and mental well-being of our children, knowing this is critical to increasing student achievement.**

\*Page 4 ACSA Joint Position Statements

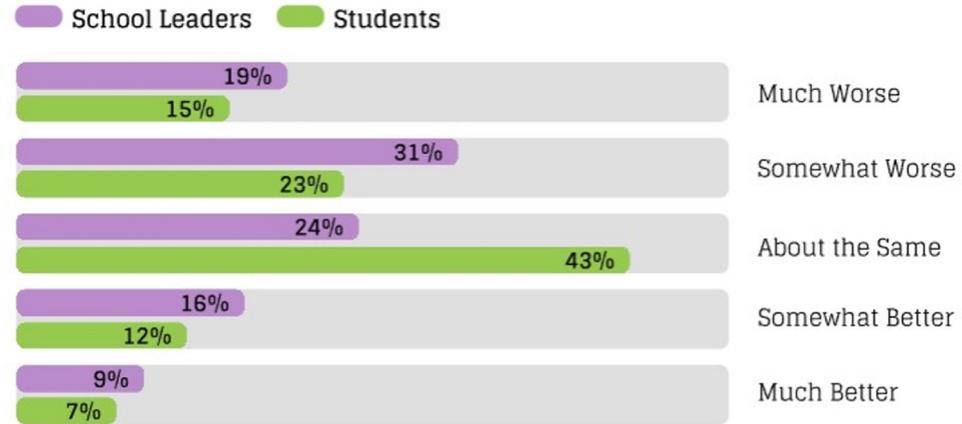


# SCHOOL SAFETY

I am very or somewhat concerned about the following in my school:



How have student behavior issues in your school changed since students returned from the pandemic?



# Education is Accountable

- Teacher and Principal Evaluations
- Accreditation Process
- Title I Data
- Graduation Rates
- Attendance
- DEED Dashboard
- Staff Retention
- Program Audits
- Special Ed/IEP Audits

## Data Center

In response to Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) has submitted a request to the U.S. Department of Education (US ED) to waive certain requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA, section 1111) related to accountability and reporting requirements.

On March 23, 2020, US ED gave notification to DEED that the waiver will be approved. As a result, schools that were identified for support in the 2019-2020 school year will maintain their identification status. Additionally, many federal requirements related to the Report Card that uses data from the 2019-2020 school year have been waived. This includes:

- Percentage of students assessed and not assessed
- Assessment results (including English language proficiency assessment results)
- Number and percentage of students with the most significant cognitive disabilities taking an alternate assessment
- Accountability system description
- Other academic indicator results (academic growth)
- School quality or student success indicator results (chronic absenteeism, Grade 3 ELA)
- Progress toward meeting long-term goals and measurements of interim progress

Overview
<b>Statistics &amp; Reports</b>
Special Education Data
Accountability Links
Assessment Data
Data Management Links
Report Cards

## Statistics & Reports

> Enrollment Totals (as of October 1 of each year)

v Graduation Data

**High School Graduates by District by School**

Select Year  Go

**Graduation Rates by Subgroups**

Select Year  Go

**Four Year Graduation Rate By District**

Select Year  Go

**Four Year Graduation Rate By School**

Select Year  Go

**Five Year Graduation Rate By District**

Select Year  Go

**Five Year Graduation Rate By School**

Select Year  Go





PERSONALIZED  
MENTORING



PROFESSIONAL  
NETWORKING

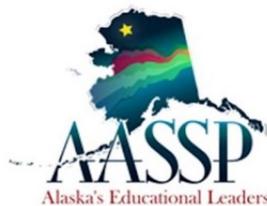


ADVANCEMENT OF  
LEADERSHIP SKILLS

**\*Served almost 150 mentees since the beginning of the program in SY 2018-2019**

**\*Served over 76% of Alaska's School Districts, and 87 individual schools**

**\*Program growth: FY23 saw the largest applicant pool and cohort acceptance, with continued growth anticipated for FY24**



# Principals Supported 2018-2022

- Four cohorts
- 2-year induction

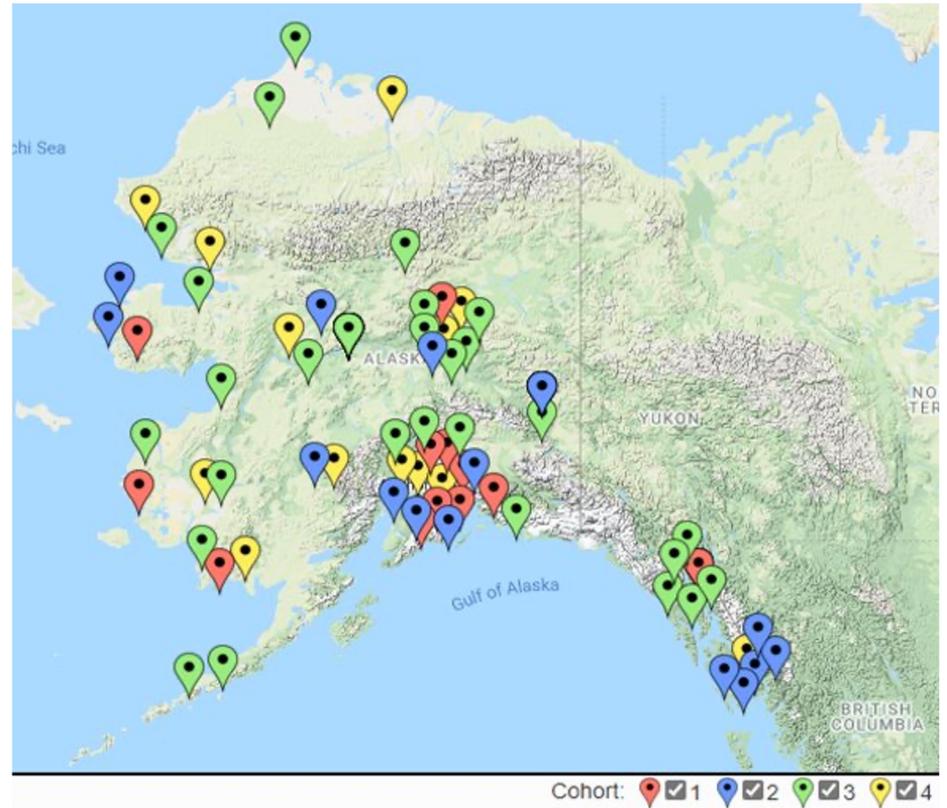
**150** Early Career Principals

**76%** of Alaska School Districts

**87** individual Alaska Schools

**41** experienced mentors

**581** hours of mentoring



# Alaska School Leadership Academy



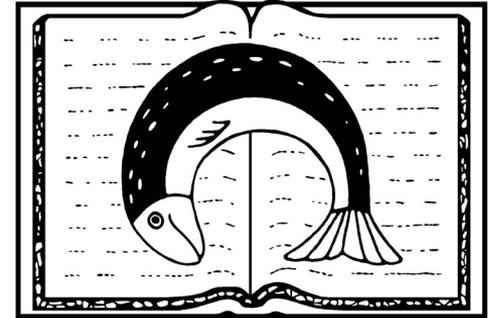
*Leadership, Unity, and Advocacy for Public Education*

# What our schools could look like...



# Principal Josh Gill

President, Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals





Josh Gill, President  
joshua\_gill@lksd.org



Lori Ruckdashel, President Elect  
Ruckdashel\_lori@asdk12.org



Linson Thompson, Treasurer  
Thompson\_linson@asdk12.org

# Alaska Association of Elementary School Principals 2022-2023 Board of Directors



Jenna Fabain, Secretary  
jfabian@kpbsd.k12.ak.us



Heather Jones, State Rep.  
Jones\_heather@asdk12.org



Heather Conn, Region Rep.  
hconn@pcsd.us



Tracy Bell, Region Rep  
tracysmallbell@gmail.com



Jennifer Schmitz, Executive Director  
jschmitz@alaskaacsa.org



Jen Rinaldi, Deputy Director  
akelementaryprincipals@gmail.com

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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.

\*Page 6 ACSA Joint Position Statements



# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

## WITHOUT A HIGH-QUALITY EARLY EDUCATION, AT-RISK CHILDREN ARE

**25%** MORE LIKELY TO **DROP OUT** OF SCHOOL

**40%** MORE LIKELY TO BECOME A **TEEN PARENT**

**50%** MORE LIKELY TO BE PLACED IN SPECIAL EDUCATION

**60%** MORE LIKELY TO **NEVER ATTEND COLLEGE**

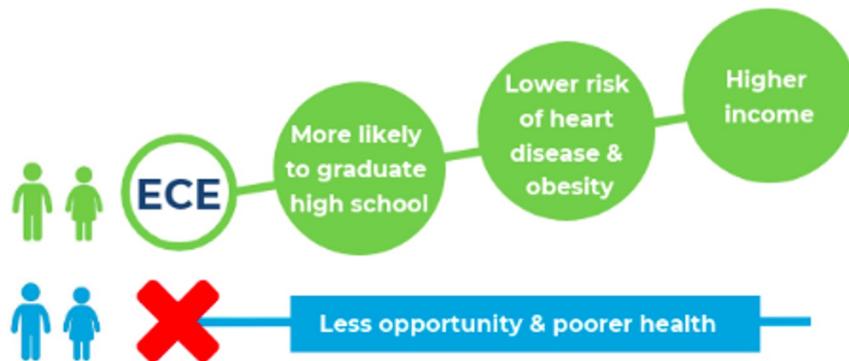
**70%** MORE LIKELY TO BE ARRESTED FOR A **VIOLENT CRIME**

HIGH-QUALITY PRESCHOOL AVAILABLE TO EVERY CHILD.



Extensive research demonstrates the value of early childhood education.

For every **\$1** invested in high-quality early childhood education, our society receives up to a **\$7-\$12** return on investment.



Heckman et al. (2010), Garcia et al. (2017) | Full citation at [www.nihcm.org](http://www.nihcm.org)

# SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

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.

\*Page 3 ACSA Joint Position Statements



# SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

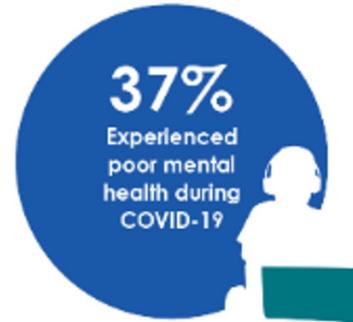
*Child maltreatment rates (per 1,000) in Alaska hover around twice national rates.*

FIGURE 15



National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (2016-2020)

## CDC DATA ON YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH DURING COVID-19



For more information, visit [cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom](https://cdc.gov/nchhstp/newsroom)



# INCREASING BANDWIDTH IN UNDERSERVED AREAS

ACSA supports continuing the Broadband Assistance Grant (BAG) to ensure all schools are able to access a **minimum speed of 25 megabits** per second as this leverages federal E-Rate funds up to a 9:1 match.

We support efforts to continue to increase download speed to meet national recommendations of 1 gigabyte per second, per student.

\*Page 3 ACSA Joint Position Statements

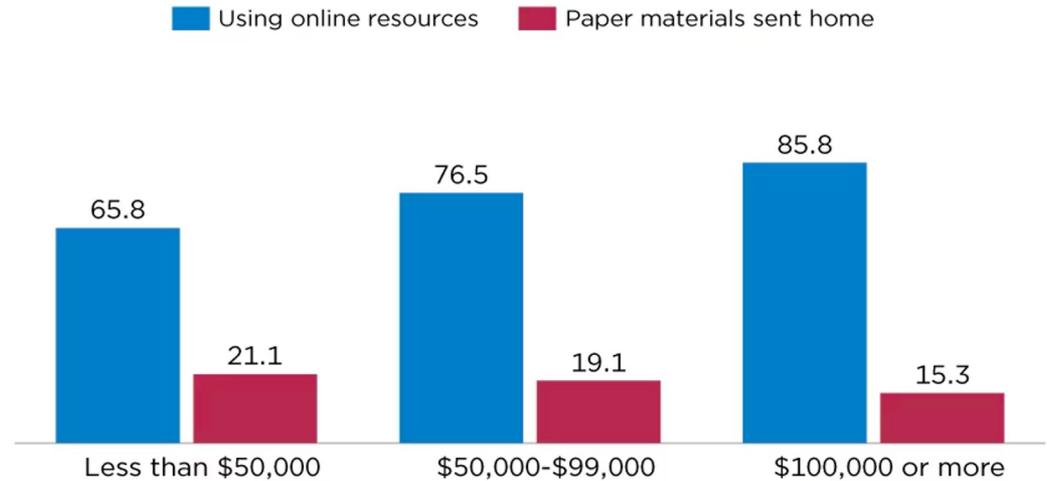


# INCREASING BANDWIDTH IN UNDERSERVED AREAS



**Online Learning and Paper Resources Provided to School Children by Household Income From May 28-June 2, 2020**

(In percent)



Note: Totals may not sum to 100% as the question allowed for multiple categories to be marked.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey, Week 5.



*Leadership, Unity, and Advocacy for Public Education*

# What our schools could look like...



# Alaska Association of School Business Officials



**Yodean Armour**  
President, Alaska  
Association of School  
Business Officials



**Andy Ratliff**  
Past-President, Alaska  
Association of School  
Business Officials

# Priority Funding for Public Education

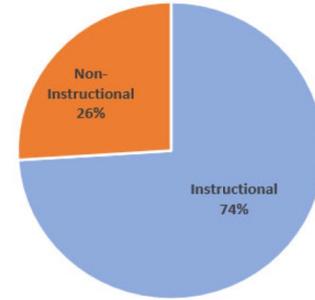
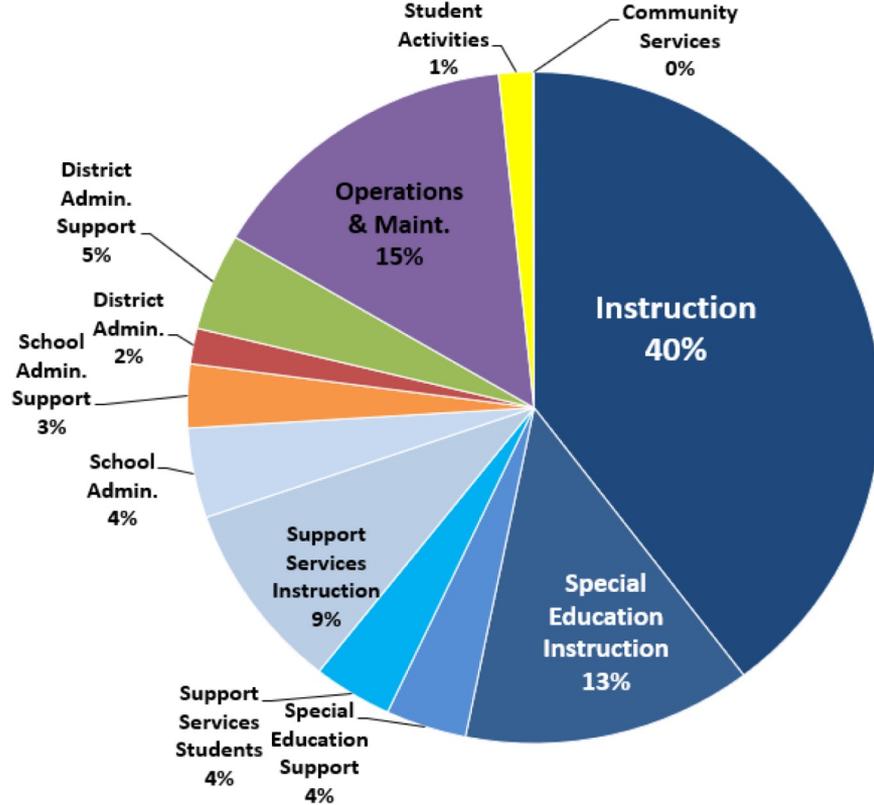
- Fiscal Cliff
  - The end of COVID funding makes prioritizing funds for public education urgent.
  - State funding should be adjusted with inflation to enable districts to use COVID relief funds to address education deficiencies caused by the worldwide COVID pandemic rather than be used to maintain existing operations.
- ACSA opposes cost shifting state expenditure responsibilities to local governments.

\*Page 2 ACSA Joint Position Statements

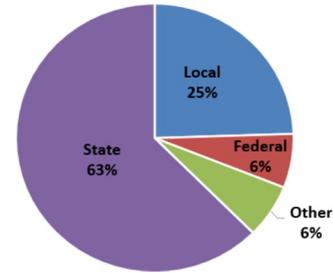


# Education Funding Overview

## FY23 School District Expenditure Budget by Category



FY23 School District Funding by Payor



## Instructional (Functions 100-400) = 74%

- Instruction
- Special Education Instruction
- Special Education Support
- Support Services – Student
- Support Services – Instruction
- School Administration (Principals)

DEED Uniform Chart of Accounts:

[https://education.alaska.gov/publications/chart\\_of\\_accounts.pdf](https://education.alaska.gov/publications/chart_of_accounts.pdf)



## Non-Instructional (Functions 450-780)= 26%

- School Admin Support
- District Administration
- District Admin Support
- Operations & Maintenance
- Student Activities
- Community Services

DEED Uniform Chart of Accounts:

[https://education.alaska.gov/publications/chart\\_of\\_accounts.pdf](https://education.alaska.gov/publications/chart_of_accounts.pdf)

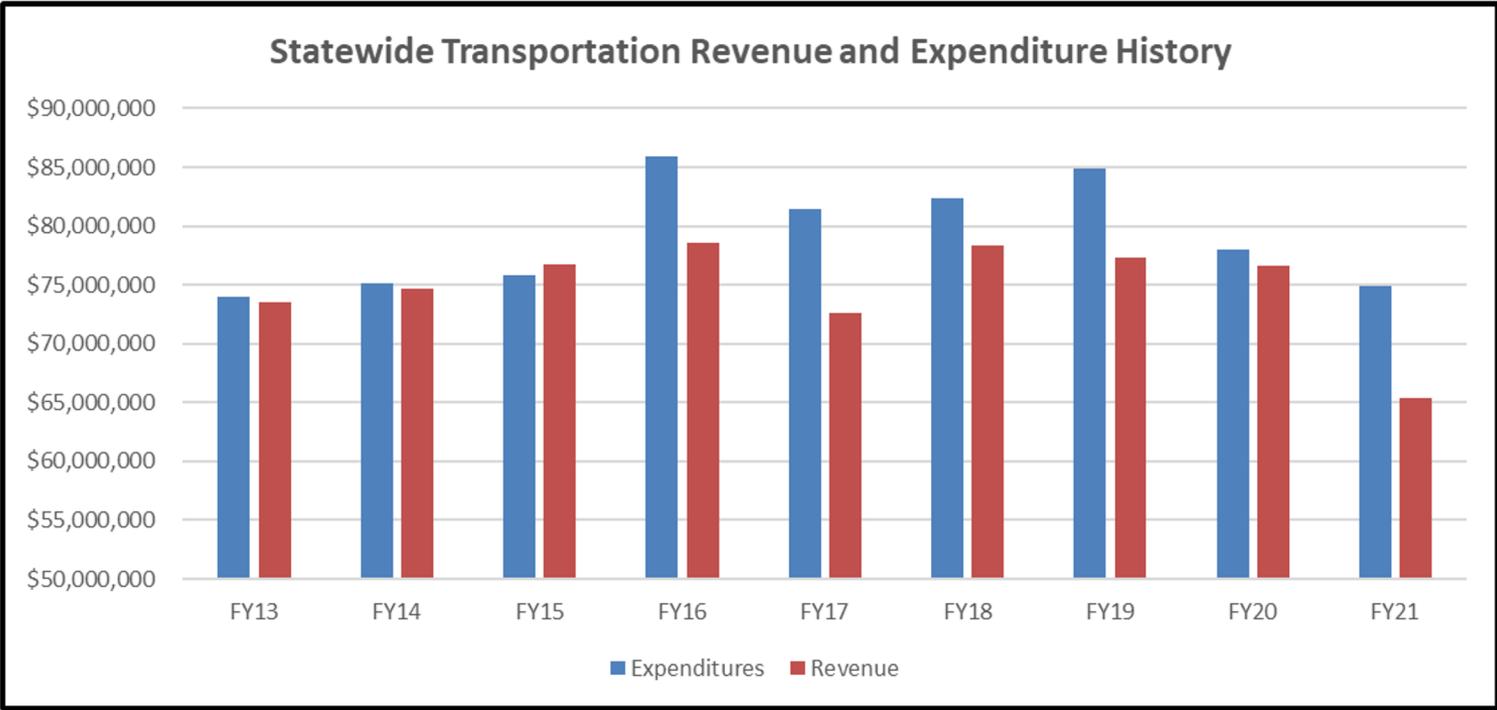


# Transportation Funding

- The State of Alaska must provide full funding for school transportation of students and inflation-proof this amount to protect student transportation from future cuts and erosion of service.
- Transportation represents one of the fastest rising categories of inflation, running over 20% higher in April 2022 compared to the previous April.
- Funding for transportation should be adjusted to match actual costs and inflation protected to ensure continuity of services in future years.
- Alaska's students deserve safe, reliable transportation from home to school. The per student amount provided to districts from the state for this vital service has not increased since 2016

\*Page 5 ACSA Joint Position Statements





# Education is Accountable

- DEED Approved Budgets Publicly Published
- Annual Financial Audits
- GEER/ESSER Reporting Requirements through DEED for COVID Expenditures
- TRS/PRS Audits
- Title I comparability reporting
- Program Audits

## Budgets & Actual Reporting

### Overview

School District Operating Budgets are submitted by July 15 of each fiscal year. The department then reviews all school district operating budgets to ensure compliance with Alaska statutes and regulations.

Audited Financial Statements, per [AS 14.14.050](#), require the school board in each school district to obtain an audit of all school accounts for the school year. A certified copy of the audit must be filed with the Commissioner of Education & Early Development by November 15.

### Publications & Resources

[Chart of Accounts 2018 Edition \(pdf\)](#)

Effective 7/1/2018

[FY2024 PERS/TRS On-behalf Rates - Resolution 2022-04 and Resolution 2022-07](#)

[State Single Audit Guides](#)

### Important Dates

District FY2022 Financial Statement / Audit due  
November 15, 2022

FY2024 District Operating Budget on or before  
July 15, 2023



# What our schools could look like...



# Doug Gray

ASDN Professional Development Director



Serving Alaska for 40 years as a  
trusted source for  
Professional Development

# Alaska's Statewide Resource for Professional Development



**Our Mission:** To provide Alaskan educators with multiple pathways to refine instructional practice and maintain certification.

**Annually we:**

- Host over **5,000** overall professional learning registrations
- Serve over **2,000** with online classes. We Offer **70** self-paced, high-quality professional development courses.
- Offer **8** webinar series with national education experts that serve over **700** 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 over **1,000** Alaskan educators from 44 districts in 2023
- Largest statewide PK-12 Conference in Alaska
- Cost savings for districts to stay in-state



# Sam Jordan

ACSA Grant Director



Partnering with school districts for every students success

# ACSA District Partnerships

- Federal and State grants portfolio
- Help school districts extend their ability to provide professional learning and instructional opportunities
- Examples of innovative projects:
  - Performance-Based compensation models
  - Support for National Superintendent Certification cohort
  - Support for National Board Certification cohort
  - College and career preparation for rural students/families
  - Indigenous language assessment
  - Computer science instruction in rural and correspondence schools



# Questions? Thank you!

Dr. Lisa S. Parady,  
ACSA Executive Director  
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