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CENTER FOR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY IN SCHOOLING  
THE ALASKA NATIVE FOUNDATION

411 WEST 4th AVENUE • ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501 • PHONE (907) 274-2541

April 6, 1978

Honorable Lisa Rudd  
House of Representatives  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Representative Rudd:

The Office of Education in Washington, D.C., is currently promulgating regulations which would end direct General Assistance Center services to school districts in Alaska.

The two enclosed papers provide a brief overview of the situation. "Implications..." sets out the effect upon Alaska should these new regulations become adopted, and the "Summary Report" tells of CEOS services in Alaska during the nine month period July 1, 1977 - March 30, 1978.

If you agree that Alaska with its multi-cultures can be most appropriately served by having a separate center for multi-cultural, bias-free, and multi-lingual assistance, please send letters and/or school board resolutions of support to Alaska's congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., and to Mr. Elton Ridge, as soon as possible. Attached is a list of names and addresses. The deadline for comments is April 19, 1978.

'Thank you very much'.

Sincerely yours,

CENTER FOR EQUALITY OF  
OPPORTUNITY IN SCHOOLING

*Jane*  
Jane Yamashiro  
Senior Associate

Enclosures:

- (1) "Implications..."
- (2) Summary Report
- (3) List of addresses

Implications of proposed regulations  
for multi-cultural and non-sexist  
technical assistance in Alaska

For nearly two years the Alaska Native Foundation has operated the Center for Equality of Opportunity in Schooling, funded under Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Technically, it is a General Assistance Center providing race and sex desegregation assistance to school districts throughout Alaska at their request. In terms of staff time, the most important activity of the Center is planning and conducting workshops on-site for teachers and administrators in human relations and multi-cultural awareness, but assistance has also taken the form of developing checklists for Native materials development, a handbook for bilingual program planning, instruments for teacher selection, and a study on strategies for meeting developmental needs of rural youth.

By awarding the contract on a competitive basis for two successive years to the Foundation, the U.S. Office of Education accepted the proposed activities as consonant with the goals of the Civil Rights Act and its amendments. In 1977 the Foundation was advised before it was awarded the contract that multi-year funding should be anticipated and that applicants should plan accordingly.

This week, the March 20 Federal Register was received in Alaska carrying proposed rules for assistance centers narrowly defining their functions and establishing new multi-state service areas that effectively bar the Foundation or any other Alaska institution from entering the competition and that will bring to an end the kind and level of service provided to Alaska districts.

With regard to race and sex desegregation assistance, Alaska, is proposed to be a part of a service area including Washington, Oregon and Idaho. With regard to "national origin" desegregation, Alaska is proposed to be part of a service area including those states, Hawaii, Guam, the Pacific Trust Territory, Samoa, and the Northern Marianas! Since any assistance center would necessarily be located near populations to be served, no Alaska institution could be a successful applicant.

SUMMARY REPORT  
CENTER FOR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY IN SCHOOLING  
SERVICES TO ALASKA

July 1, 1977 - March 30, 1978  
(9 Month Period)

Prepared by Lydia Hays  
Assistant Director, CEOS  
March 30, 1978

CEOS Staff: Bob Arnold, Lydia Hays, Jane Yamashiro, Jim Chase,  
Dick Dauenhauer and Mary Lekanof

I. Alaska School Districts receiving direct assistance:

Total number of School Districts assisted:	28*
Total number of School Districts in Alaska:	50
Percentage of school districts served by CEOS in Alaska during the 9 month period	56%*

\* NOTE: Statewide events wherein CEOS conducted portions  
of or all of the sessions included virtually all  
school districts.

II. Types of assistance rendered:

A. Workshops conducted

1. Alaska Native and multi-cultural education/human relations	21
2. Human Relations/Values Clarifica- tion	4
3. Title IX, to eliminate sex discrim- ination	6
4. (Other workshops scheduled but cancelled for various reasons; are to be rescheduled)	4)

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Total workshops  
held 31

Even more distressing is that services needed by Alaska districts to help them provide greater equality of opportunity to all learners will be virtually unobtainable under the scheme proposed. Such services have, heretofore, been provided with funds authorized under the Civil Rights Act.

The proposed rules would restrict race desegregation services to districts which are literally desegregating. There are none in Alaska, but this doesn't mean a minority child has an equal chance. The proposed rules would re-name a category of activities chiefly arising from English language deficiencies as "natural origin desegregation assistance." Can such assistance be rendered to Alaska's largest group of bilingual speakers--Alaska Natives? Their problem is not "national origin."

Finally, the proposed rules would artificially separate activities which are inseparable. Race, sex, language and culture persist in being key factors in making educational opportunities unequal. Reducing racism and sexism and increasing opportunities for all learners dictates that all key factors be addressed together.

What is needed in Alaska is a civil rights assistance center authorized to provide all three kinds of services. What is needed is that a center be in Alaska. Essentially this is what has existed since 1976, and any substantial change ought to be preceded by more than thirty days notice.

Comments on the proposed rules will be accepted until April 19, 1978, they should be addressed to: Mr. Elton W. Ridge, Room 2001, FOB-5, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington D.C., 20202.

Robert D. Arnold

April 3, 1978

- B. Consultations/requests for information through visits to CEOS office and telephone calls 90+

(NOTE: Requests for information by letter are not included in the 90+ figure. It is estimated that an additional 75 requests have come to CEOS by letter.)

III. Alaska education agencies receiving CEOS assistance on a statewide basis wherein virtually all school districts were represented:

A. Alaska Department of Education

1. Presentation on multi-cultural education at the State Right to Read Conference
2. Planning, conducting and evaluating the Language Assessment Training workshop (Dec., 1977, Anchorage)
3. Planning goals and objectives for the work session at the Bilingual-Bicultural Conference (Feb., 1978)
4. Conducting two of the 12 sectionals at the Bilingual-Bicultural Conference (Feb., 1978)
5. Consultation on ESAA proposals in Alaska
6. Consultation with Director of ADOE, Educational Program Support
7. Consultation with Director, Bilingual-Bicultural Program, ADOE
8. Consultation with the Commissioner of Education State of Alaska on multi-cultural education needs in Alaska

B. NEA Teacher Conference (March, 1978)

Conduct of three educational sectionals offered at the conference: 1) cross-cultural/linguistics education in the classroom; 2) Title IX, elimination of sex discrimination in schools, and 3) Alaska Native culture, and human attitudes

C. Alaska State School Board Association

Workshop on cross-cultural awareness and communication skills enhancement

IV. Other agencies requesting and receiving assistance from CEOS on cross-cultural awareness, prejudice/discrimination and Title 9 education:

1. Cook Inlet Native Association
2. ARCO Oil Company
3. Alaska Native Language Center
4. Southcentral Regional Resource Center

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| 5. Southeast Regional Resource Center                              | 25. Alaska Legal Services                                 |
| 6. Aleutian/Pribilof Is. Native Association                        | 26. Kuskokwim Community College                           |
| 7. Adult Basic Education Program, Fairbanks                        | 27. Kellogg Human Resources Project, University of Alaska |
| 8. Black Caucus, Anchorage   | 28. Ft. Richardson Military Post                          |
| 9. Central Lutheran Church, Anchorage                              | 29. Anchorage Police Department                           |
| 10. United Methodist Church, statewide                             | 30. Alaska Rural Community Action Program                 |
| 11. McLaughlin Youth Center  | 31. Hope Cottage staff for handicapped children           |
| 12. Bristol Bay Native Corp.                                       | 32. University of Alaska Rural Secondary Schools Project  |
| 13. Alaska Division of Banking and Securities                      | 33. Alaska Legislative Affairs Council                    |
| 14. Center for Northern Educational Research, University of Alaska | 34. Alaska Library Assn.                                  |
| 15. HEW, Region X  | 35. Galena Community College                              |
| 16. Office of Civil Rights, Region X                               | 36. Bureau of Indian Affairs, Regional Director           |
| 17. Adult Literacy Lab, University of Alaska                       | 37. Lawyers   |
| 18. City Manager, Seldovia   | 38. Alaska Federation of Natives                          |
| 19. X-CED Teacher Training Program, University of Alaska           | 39. Human Rights Commission                               |
| 20. Alaska Native Hospital/Anchorage; statewide services           | 40. Human Rights Commission, Maine                        |
| 21. Alaska Bilingual Advisory Committee                            | 41. Anchorage TV and newspapers                           |
| 22. Sheldon Jackson College, Sitka                                 | 42. Alaska State Library/Media                            |
| 23. University of Alaska   | 43. HEW, Washington, D. C.                                |
| 24. Alaska Methodist University                                    | 44. Portland, Lau Center                                  |

V. Additional projects conducted by CEOS during the 9 month period:

1. Two cultural awareness posters for school districts
2. Evaluation of business management courses for Alaska Natives in villages
3. Proofreading BIA Tribal Definition research paper
4. Checklist for Planning culturally relevant curriculum materials
5. Research and writing of new chapter to Alaska Native Land Claims, a first in culturally relevant curriculum for Alaska Natives
6. Special mailing, Alaska Native language materials bibliography
7. Preparation of Language Assessment Test for students; distribution to requesting school districts
8. Language Assessment Test Validation Project
9. Research paper on Aleut written literature
10. Development of Alaska Native linguistics exercises for

- workbook to be used in language classes
11. Discrimination in Testing, a project in the design stage
  12. Bibliography mailings on multi/cultural materials.
  13. Film evaluations for cultural bias
  14. Supplemental educational learning opportunities for for rural Alaska Native Youth, a project in process

VI. Current requests for CEOS assistance:

1. Gateway Borough School District
2. Alaska Gateway School District
3. Hoonah City Schools
4. Lower Kuskokwim School District
5. Wrangell City Schools
6. Anchorage School District
7. Craig City Schools
8. Ketchikan Indian Education Program
9. Iditarod School District
10. Kodiak School District
11. Bering Straits School District
12. Alaska Department of Education cross-cultural awareness/human relations workshop to be conducted by CEOS April 24-25, 1978.

VII. Clients who have received direct services from CEOS (spectrum of personnel receiving direct benefit):

Teacher aides  
 curriculum directors  
 tutors  
 teachers  
 secretarial staff of schools  
 administrators (superintendents)  
 Indian Education program directors and staff  
 Johnson-O'Malley program directors and staff  
 principals  
 school board members  
 community school committees  
 community members/parents  
 Alaska Department of Education  
   Minority Affairs Officer  
   Director, Bilingual/Bicultural Education  
   Director and Staff, Educational Program Support  
   State Commissioner of Education  
   State Bilingual Advisory Committee  
 students in the schools

ALASKA DELEGATION IN CONGRESS

U. S. Senate

Honorable Ted Stevens  
United States Senate  
411 Russell Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Honorable Mike Gravel  
United States Senate  
3317 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D. C. 20510

U. S. House of Representatives

Honorable Donald E. Young  
House of Representatives  
1210 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20515

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Send copies of letters/resolutions to:

Mr. Elton W. Ridge  
Room 2001, FOB-6  
400 Maryland Avenue SW  
Washington, D. C. 20202

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