

03/18/13

**PRESENTATION ON
EARLY LITERACY:
BEST BEGINNINGS
AND ALASKA
PARENTS AS
TEACHERS**

<TARGET><BILL></BILL><SUBJECT>03-18-13 PRESENTATION ON
EARLY LITERACY BEST BEGINNINGS AND ALASKA PARENTS AS
TEACHERS</SUBJECT><COMM>SEDC28</COMM></TARGET>

Investing in Alaska's Young Children

Alaska Early Care and Education: Public Policy Priorities for 2013



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A Collaborative Effort

- Best Beginnings
- thread
- Alaska Association for the Education of Young Children (Alaska AEYC)
- Alaska Head Start Association (AHSA)
- Alaska Infant Learning Program Association (AILPA)

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Alaska Facts

- 53,996 children under 5
- 10,112 kindergarteners this school year
- Most likely to be poor – youngest children



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Alaska's Early Childhood Legislative Priorities 2013

- Parents as Teachers (\$1,042,500 in Governor's budget)
- Best Beginnings (\$937,500 in Governor's budget)
 - Early Childhood Partnerships
 - Imagination Library
- Quality Rating & Improvement System
- Professional Development & Retention of Early Educators

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Early Childhood System

□ Comprehensive early childhood system,
not just separate, individual programs

- Early learning
- Health, mental health,
and nutrition
- Family support
- Special needs/early
intervention



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Legislative Priority: Parents as Teachers

Personal Visits

Screening

Group
Connections

Resource
Referrals

Parents as Teachers Goals

- ❑ Increase parent knowledge of early childhood development and improve parenting practices
- ❑ Provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues
- ❑ Prevent child abuse and neglect
- ❑ Increase children's school readiness and school success

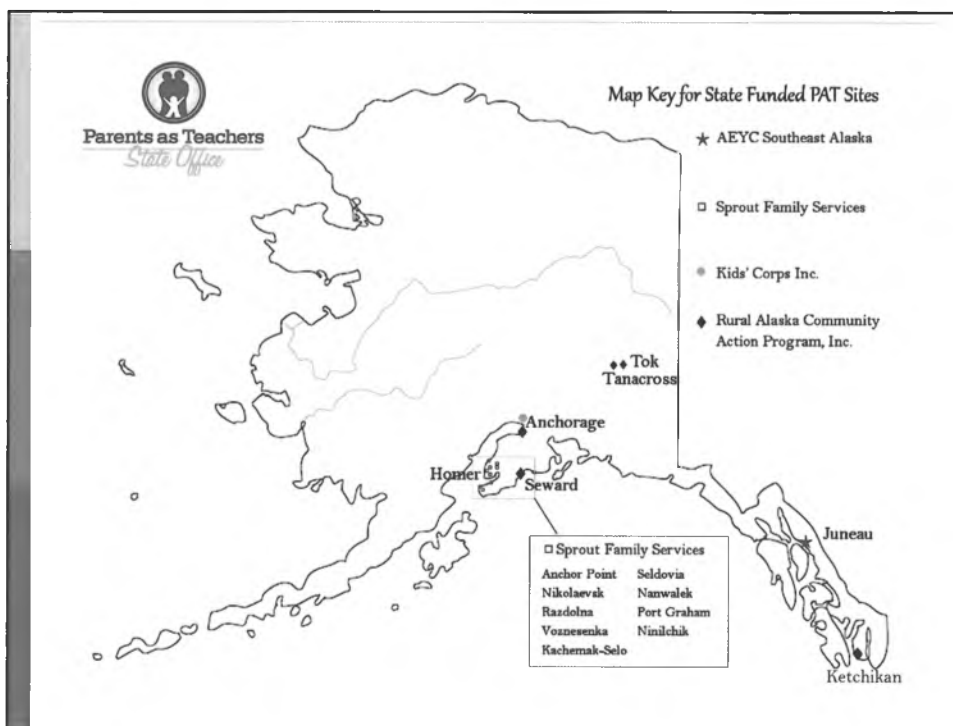


Alaska Parents as Teachers



Parents as Teachers Alaska's Investment

- New investment by the state
 - Economically viable at \$4,000 - \$6,000/family
- Model that works in both urban and rural Alaskan communities
- Additional focus on particular populations
 - Military families
 - Teen parents
 - Families in shelters/transition
 - Multi-cultural/bilingual families
 - Children at risk for developmental delays



Parents as Teachers Outcomes

PAT Parents:

- Are more involved in their child's schooling
- Report a higher level of confidence and engagement in parenting
- Engage in more language and literacy-promoting activities with their children

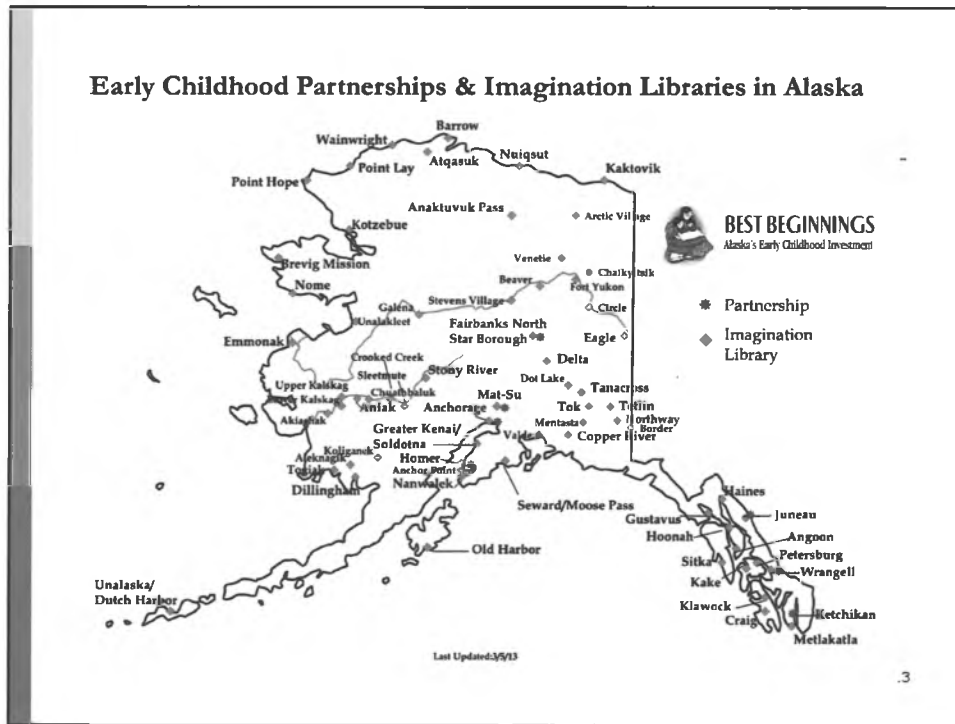
PAT Children:

- Arrive at their next educational setting developmentally on target
- Referred to early intervention programs have exited out before age three



Best Beginnings: Alaska's Early Childhood Investment

- A public-private partnership mobilizing people and resources to ensure all Alaska children begin school ready to succeed
 - Community-based, volunteer-led work through Imagination Libraries and early childhood partnerships
 - Innovative early childhood learning materials
 - Research and public awareness campaigns



Legislative Priority

- Early childhood partnerships' work
 - Community Support for Early Childhood
 - Parent Engagement & Education
 - Language & Literacy
 - Partnership Development & Sustainability



Legislative Priority

- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Alaska



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Legislative Priority

- Imagination Library – with your support

March 2010	March 2013
32 communities	103 communities
7,594 children enrolled	20,384 children enrolled

- Funding from Dept. of Education & Early Development, Healthy Alaska Natives Foundation, Providence Health & Services, Wells Fargo Bank, multitude of local businesses, and individuals
- 38% of Alaska children under 5

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Legislative Priority: Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS)

- Helps parents make the best choices for their families
- Moves programs towards quality
- Provides outcome information for policy makers to assess different funding strategies

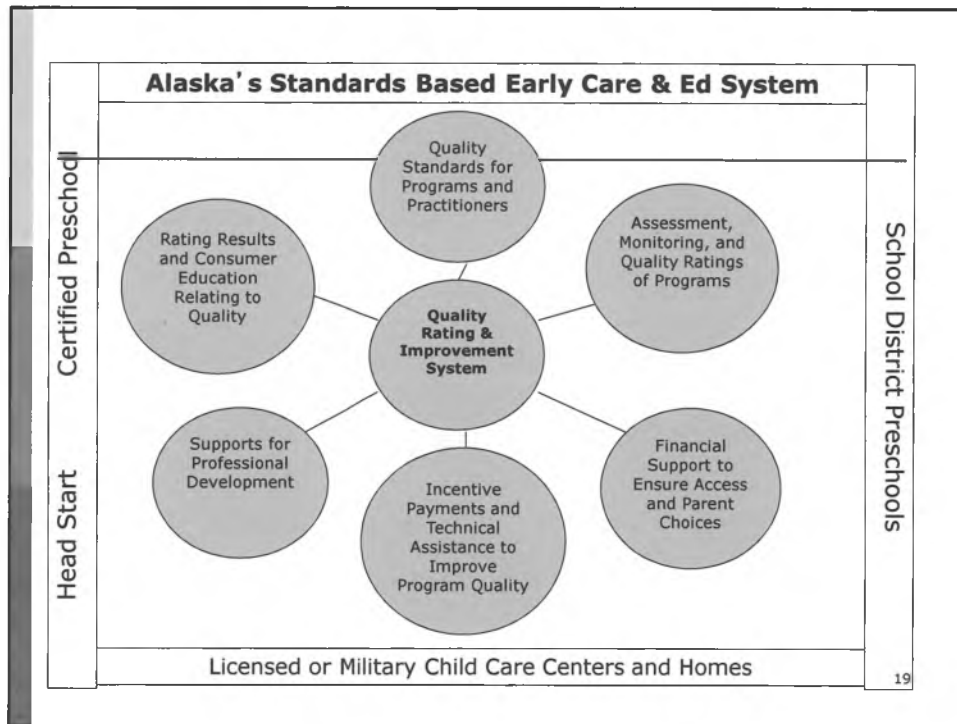


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Legislative Priority: Quality Rating & Improvement System (QRIS)

- Pilot projects
- January 2008 Alaska QRIS plan
- March 2013 DHSS contract with thread for staff
- Next steps

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Legislative Priority: Professional Development & Retention

Purpose of Priority:

- Decrease financial barriers to professional development opportunities
- Increase recruitment and retention in the early care and education field

Research indicates the biggest factor in the quality of a program and in improving child outcomes is the teacher education level

Alaska's Child Care Workforce

- Less than 10% of the child care workforce has a college degree
- National Accreditation standards and Head Start standards are moving towards a BA teacher in each classroom
- With the average wage of \$9/hour and a 40-50% turnover rate in child care, additional support is needed to increase the qualifications of teachers

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Presenters

- **Kristin Ramstad**
 - Parents as Teachers Director, Rural Alaska Community Action Agency, Inc.

- **Estrella "Star" Lee**
 - Alaska Parents as Teachers Coordinator, Rural Alaska Community Action Agency, Inc.

- **Abbe Hensley**
 - Executive Director, Best Beginnings

- **Joy Lyon**
 - Executive Director, AEYC Southeast Alaska

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Investing In Alaska's Young Children



Alaska Early Care and Learning: Public Policy Priorities for 2013

A thriving workforce and strong economy in Alaska today and in the future depend on students graduating from high school with the academic and social skills needed for the world of work, post-secondary education or training. Because a productive pipeline isn't built starting at mile 5, it is critical to invest in Alaska's youngest children. Our children birth to five are best served by a unified, sustainable system of early care and learning, health, and family support.

A coalition of early childhood experts and leading organizations with representation from across Alaska have been working together and agree on the next steps to increase the number of healthy, happy children ready to succeed in school, and beyond. Our priorities align with recommendations made by the Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council (AECCC).

Quality Early Care and Learning

Action for 2013

- Invest in first steps for a quality rating and improvement system (QRIS)
- Expand professional development for early educators
- Increase investment in Head Start



BEST BEGINNINGS
Alaska's Early Childhood Investment

www.bestbeginningsalaska.org

Strengthening Families

Action for 2013

- Increase funding for home visiting through Parents as Teachers (PAT)
- Increase funding for Infant Learning Program to provide services to children who experience abuse and/or neglect



Support Brings Success!
www.akheadstart.org

Community Engagement and Early Literacy

Action for 2013

- Continue investment in Best Beginnings
 - ◇ Support local community efforts to improve early childhood outcomes
 - ◇ Support Imagination Library



**Alaska Infant Learning
Program Association**
Serving as an advocate for Infant Learning Program
children, families, and staff

*"Early childhood education is the driver of better outcomes and returns in secondary and higher education, health and economic development."
-James Heckman, Nobel Laureate Economist, University of Chicago*

thread connecting
early care & education
to alaska

www.threadalaska.org

Quality Early Care and Learning

A **Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)** in Alaska will provide a sustainable systematic approach to assess, recognize, reward and improve the level of quality in early care and learning programs. A QRIS sets standards of excellence for early care and learning programs and then provides a pathway to help programs continually improve to meet the higher standards. QRIS provide financial, training and technical assistance support for participating programs and serve as a bridge to bring together all early childhood programs under one vision of care and education. By providing public ratings of early care and education quality, more parents and families will have access to information to make better informed decisions about the types of early care and learning programs best for their children while early care and learning programs will be supported and incentivized for increased quality.

thread is Alaska's Child Care Resource and Referral Network and has the ability to expand professional development for early educators. Research shows educated teachers and caregivers are the leading indicators of quality and can make a difference in children's development and learning. Over 60% of children spend at least part of their day in non-parental care. The quality and stability of child care is therefore critical to a child's success when entering the school system. As of 2012, Alaska is ranked 28th, in the bottom half of states, for overall quality of Family Child Care Homes. Worse yet, Alaska is ranked in the bottom 10 of all states for the quality of our Child Care Centers. Contributing to this is Alaska's current professional development requirements for center directors and lead teachers that do not meet national best practice guidelines.

Early Head Start and Head Start programs in Alaska are on the front lines of helping to intervene and prepare the most at risk children and families for success in school and in life. In the 2011/2012 school year 4,194 children were served in over 100 communities in Alaska. The primary criterion for eligibility is low income - no more than ten percent of enrollees can be over established income criteria. Ten percent of slots must be reserved for children with disabilities. Between the 08/09 and 11/12 school years Early Head Start and Head Start had the following increases in number of children enrolled in these categories: Public Assistance - 355 to 807 (127% increase); Foster Children - 107 to 154 (44% increase); Homeless Children - 187 to 406 (117% increase); Children with Disabilities - 407 to 520 (28% increase).

This aligns with the Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council's priorities: (1) Expand early childhood services to 5,000 new children, (2) Identify methods to increase the pay in early childhood settings, particularly for those with higher degrees and (3) Implement the QRIS (Quality Rating and Improvement System) plan.

Strengthening Families

Parents as Teachers is an internationally recognized personal visitation program for prenatal women and families with children between the ages of 0 and 5. The program is designed to respect parents as the child's first and most influential teachers, and helps build a strong foundation for the child's future success in school and life. Parents as Teachers has over 15 years of success in Alaska.

Infant Learning Programs across the state are seeing a 22% increase in referrals of infants and toddlers who have experienced abuse and neglect. Providing early intervention services to these young children is essential to changing the trajectory of their lives by protecting early brain development through evaluation, ongoing services, and developmental/parenting information.

This aligns with the Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council's priorities: (1) Expand early childhood services to 5,000 new children, (5) Embed "Strengthening Families" protective factors, and (7) Ensure every child will have full access to well-child exams.

Community Engagement and Early Literacy

Best Beginnings supports diverse groups in 100 Alaska communities so that young children are prepared for success in school, and in life. Early childhood partnerships and Imagination Libraries receive resources – ongoing support, training, and matching funds – according to approved plans. Seven early childhood partnerships across Alaska are coming up with innovative ways to collaborate, use resources more effectively, and help families prepare their children for kindergarten. More than 19,975 children 0-5 in 100 Alaska communities receive a free book in the mail every month through Imagination Library. Evaluation results are positive: children are read to more, have more books at home, and are more enthusiastic about reading – increasing the likelihood of their becoming good readers and graduating from high school.

This aligns with the Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council's priorities: (1) Expand early childhood services to 5,000 new children, and (6) Support and promote a local partnerships grant process to invest in early childhood and family support.

Parents as Teachers

ALASKA

2012 FACT SHEET



Parents as Teachers
State Office



All children will learn, grow and develop to realize their full potential.

Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an evidence-based parent education and family support model serving families throughout pregnancy until their child enters kindergarten. Families receive personal visits typically in their homes from certified parent educators; group meetings; developmental, health, hearing and vision screenings; and linkages with community resources.



Children who are prepared for kindergarten continue to do well in the early grades of elementary school, and are more likely to graduate from high school and go on to be successful in life. Parents who participate in Parents as Teachers are more confident about their parenting and are more involved in their children's schooling; a key component of a child's success.

2011—2012 Program Year Highlights

Services for Children and Families

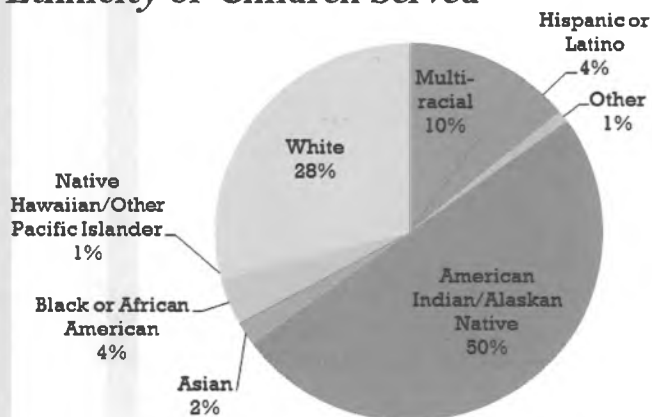
Children Served:	996
Families Served:	852
Communities Served:	38
Personal home visits:	8,330
Families who are active duty military:	36
Teen parents:	26
Children who received complete/ initial screening:	879
Children referred for further assessment:	185
Children who received follow-up services:	152
Families who attended Group Connection:	498
Families linked to at least two community resources:	425

Professional Development

Parent Educators/ Program Administrators trained and certified in

PAT Foundational Curriculum:	74
PAT Model Implementation:	39
PAT 3 years to Kindergarten Curriculum:	10
Participants certified in Family Empowerment Training:	14

Ethnicity of Children Served





Early Childhood Partnerships FY 2013

Partnership	\$ Best Beginnings	\$ Other Sources	\$ In-Kind	\$In-Kind + Other	% In-Kind/Other vs. Best Beginnings
Anchorage	\$30,000	0	\$33,690	\$33,690	112.30%
Fairbanks	\$55,000	\$5,500	\$40,838	\$46,338	84.25%
Homer	\$35,000	\$10,600	\$70,000	\$80,600	230.29%
Juneau	\$55,000	\$70,725	\$7,461	\$78,186	142.16%
Ketchikan	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$32,000	\$47,000	156.67%
Mat-Su	\$45,000	\$15,000	\$48,750	\$63,750	141.67%
Wrangell	\$25,000	\$15,725	\$16,097	\$31,822	127.29%

Examples of in-kind contributions received as of Feb. 1st, 2013

Fairbanks:

- Media in-kind advertising: \$1,793
- Website & Community Calendar maintenance: \$2,048
- Alyeska Best Beginnings Fair venue space fee waiver: \$1,185

Homer:

- Kenai Peninsula SD - Child Find space, supplies: \$2,000
- Community print/radio advertising, web development: \$1,750
- City of Homer - staff, equipment, supplies for play space: \$1,000

Juneau:

- Partnership administrative support: \$7,641

Wrangell:

- Specialist time & travel for Wrangell Children's Fair: \$4,000
- Local high school students – child care & supplies for fair: \$1,700

Ketchikan:

- Staff support: \$12,500
- Meeting space: \$1,750
- Meeting materials & supplies: \$1,000

Anchorage:

- ASD - Ready for Kindergarten project facilities: \$2,600
- Food & supplies - Ready for Kindergarten project: \$2,500

Mat-Su:

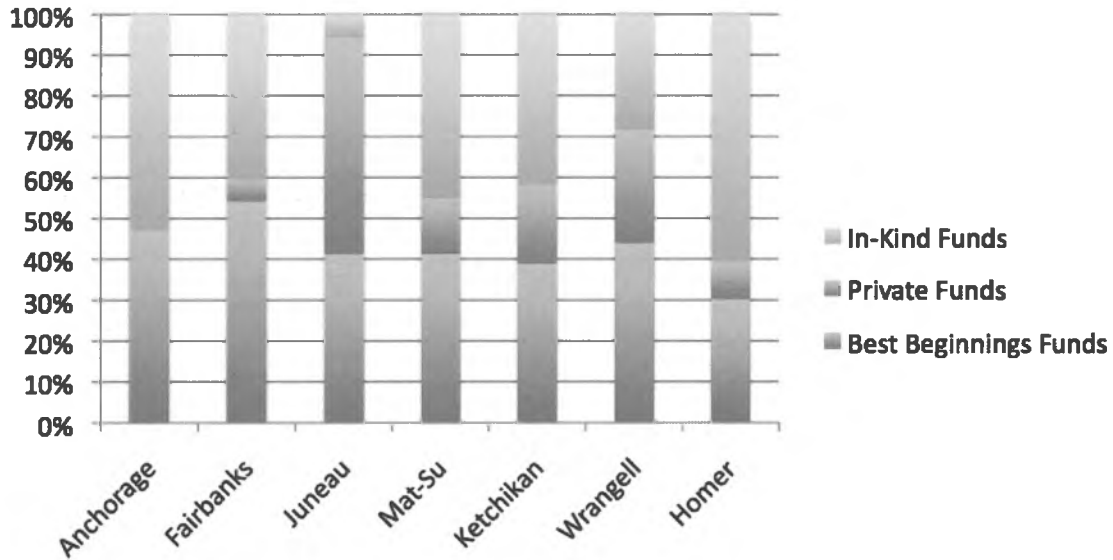
- CPR & First Aid certification training: \$4,326
- Personnel & staff time: \$6,578
- Partnership meeting space & supplies: \$981



Early Childhood Partnerships FY 2013

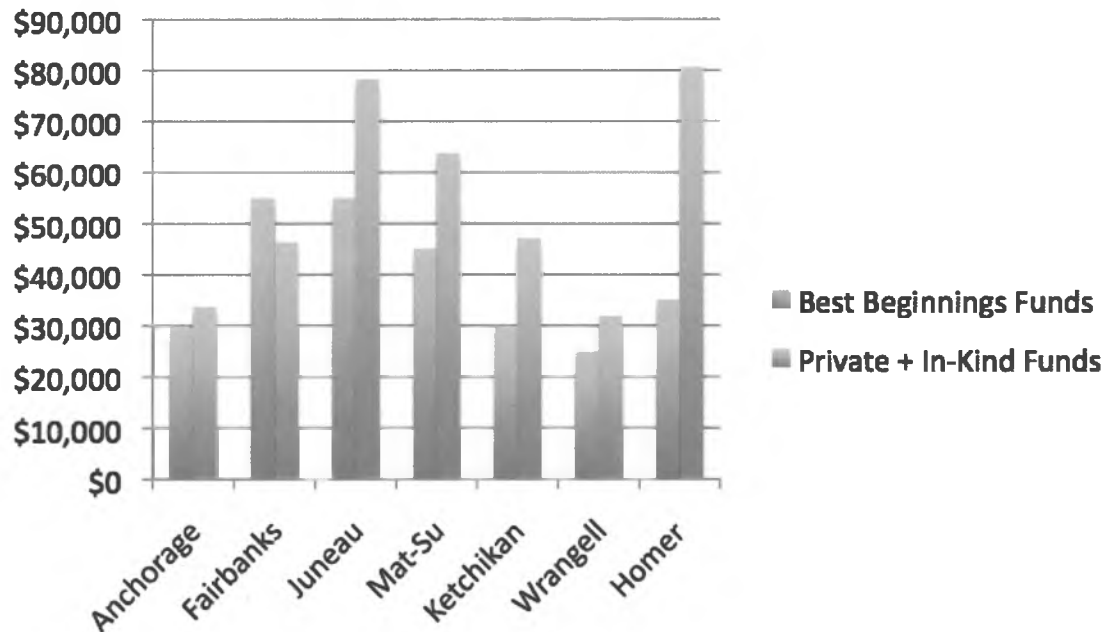
ECP Funding Sources

As % of Total Budgets



Leveraging Public Dollars

Private/In-Kind vs. Best Beginnings Funds



Early Childhood Partnerships & Imagination Libraries in Alaska



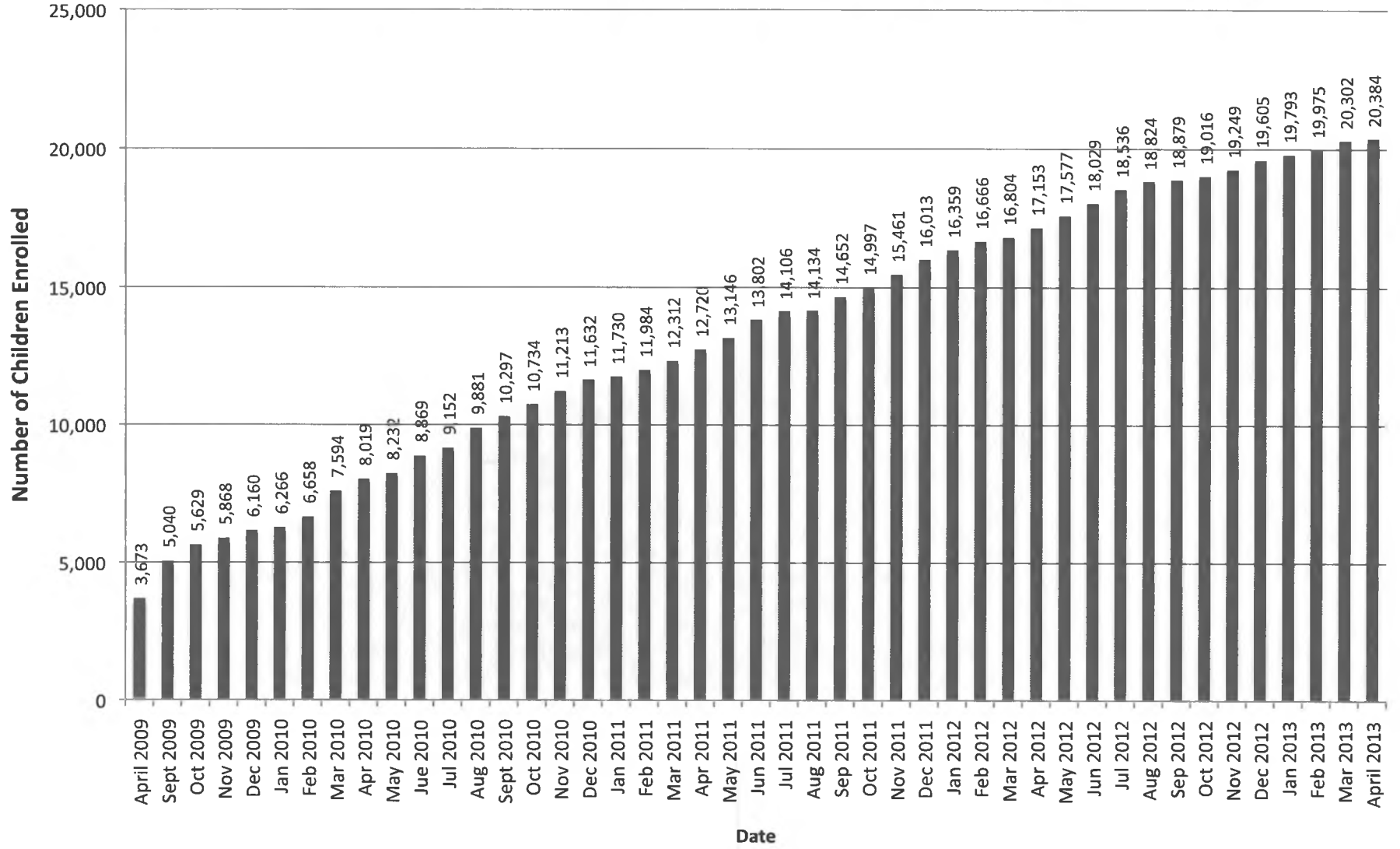
BEST BEGINNINGS
Alaska's Early Childhood Investment

- ★ Partnership
- ◆ Imagination Library

Imagination Library Enrollments (Number of Children Receiving Books)

Affiliate	Apr 09	Sept 09	Jan 10	July 2010	April 2011	Dec 2011	May 2012	Oct 2012	Dec 2012	Jan 2013	Feb. 2013	March 2013	April 2013
Akiachak													4
Anchor Point							34	43	41	45	45	45	50
Anchorage		834	1,600	3,047	4,487	5,565	6,410	6,939	7,267	7,284	7,389	7,614	7,674
Brevig Mission					50	54	53	51	51	52	53	51	50
Copper River							6	26	22	63	59	62	64
Delta								132	157	187	185	194	195
Dillingham					98	194	198	191	213	215	206	208	202
Emmonak					50	63	68	59	58	58	58	57	Inactive
Galena										18	17	17	17
Homer						192	176	187	193	218	209	205	225
Hoonah				52	51	61	60	55	62	65	66	69	70
Greater Kenai		--	120	220	390	709	828	938	1,041	1,092	1,083	1,165	1,180
Koliganek				16	17	20	16	13	Dec 2012: merged with Dillingham				
Kotzebue						51	65	120	120	143	144	140	134
Kuskokwim				66	88	119	136	135	129	131	127	129	125
Mat-Su		44	88	728	1,574	2,309	2,607	2,845	2,957	2,979	3,083	3,070	3,075
Metlakatla						61	72	91	96	95	94	93	92
Nanwalek				30	29	21	21	32	32	32	32	32	32
Nome	135	160	174	175	165	232	255	237	217	218	223	222	225
North Slope				251	474	551	616	626	632	626	619	614	620
North Star Bor	2,738	2,824	2,974	3,052	3,400	3,463	3,494	3,712	3,661	3,675	3,628	3,582	3,586
Old Harbor				38	51	54	80	75	73	75	77	80	83
Seward		112	175	202	213	221	226	219	224	213	200	189	191
Southeast	800	977	1,029	1,130	1,394	1,807	1,849	1,921	1,985	1,929	1,996	2,000	2,023
Togiak							43	48	45	46	49	48	53
Unalakleet					53	63	54	53	56	56	54	57	57
Unalaska		35	41	42		52	44	53	49	49	49	53	52
Upr Tanana		54	65	103	104	110	104	93	97	95	97	104	107
Valdez												72	74
Wainwright					32	41	42	35	45	49	47	46	45
Yukon Flats							20	87	82	85	86	84	79
Total	3,673	5,040	6,266	9,152	12,720	16,013	17,577	19,016	19,605	19,793	19,975	20,302	20,384

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Old Harbor				38	51	54	80	75	73	75	77	80	83
Seward		112	175	202	213	221	226	219	224	213	200	189	191
Southeast	800	977	1,029	1,130	1,394	1,807	1,849	1,921	1,985	1,929	1,996	2,000	2,023
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