Alaska Education Council
Memorandum of Agreement
Between the
Alaska Department of Education & Early Development
and the
Department of Health and Social Services,
Department of Labor and Workforce Development,
University of Alaska
and the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

The Partnership

The purpose of this Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is to establish the Alaska Education Council. The memorandum also discusses how the parties will work toward implementation of Council objectives, and formalizes collaboration between participating members for the purpose of increasing student achievement; from early learning through K-12, postsecondary study, and workforce training.

The Objectives

To establish a Council charged with:
- Providing seamless connections between schools, universities, career and technical institutions and various governmental agencies;
- Identifying and reducing barriers that limit student access to state education resources and programs;
- Encouraging diverse delivery mechanisms of education;
- Connecting planning efforts to comprehensive education plans;
- Communicating annually to the public about goals, data, challenges and opportunities relevant to effective planning, accountability, efforts to increase student achievement, and the establishment of an effective transition from early learning to postsecondary study.

The Framework

The current system of collaboration, while positive, is voluntary and personality driven rather than integrated systemically between various state agencies, the University, and K-12 sector. This agreement provides a framework to ensure collaboration is consistent, ongoing and systemic.

Each department, agency or system, will absorb all costs of their participation, such as travel, administrative costs associated with meetings, or other matters related to the implementation of this MOU.

The Chair of the Alaska Education Council, as well as an agenda/schedule/location of meetings, will be determined at a future date.
The Alaska Education Council will ask for a high level of commitment by participating members which will require attendance and active participation at council meetings. No designees will be allowed as substitutes for permanent council members.

Permanent Membership of the Council:
- Commissioner of Health and Social Services
- Commissioner of Education & Early Development
- Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development
- President of the University of Alaska
- Executive Director of the Postsecondary Education Commission
- Co-Chair of the State Early Learning Council

Additional stakeholders consisting of representatives from public and private agencies may be invited to make reports and recommendations to the council for consideration. In addition, council members may identify ex-officio members from government agencies or private business who may be invited to attend Council meetings. Permanent members, by a vote of the majority, may invite other participants to become Council members.

One of the council’s primary responsibilities will be to communicate to the governor, legislature and public on the status of education and workforce and vocational training. In such communication, the Council will endeavor to consider, among other information;

- Goals of various programs or institutions
- Analysis of relevant data on:
  - College entry rates
  - College completion rates
  - Workforce development
  - Labor trends
  - Career and Technical completion rates
  - Information relative to public accountability
- Barriers and Challenges
- Progress Reports
- Data-driven Recommendations that may be relevant
- School Readiness

The Council may decide, using information cited above, to issue an annual report. In such case the costs of compiling and printing the annual report will be shared by all Council members.

Council Members Agree to:

1. Identify resources to build capacity to address identified needs.
2. Support and promote coordination between state, tribal, federal and private-sector programs placing focus on existing efforts.
3. Review or update policies related to educational endeavors in Alaska which pertain to implementation of objectives set forth in this MOU.

4. Develop strategies to promote sustainability of infrastructure, reduce program redundancy, and support the incorporation of evidence-based programs and practices.

5. Monitor, sustain, improve, or replace existing program strategies based on results, priorities or related data which may come forward as a result of this MOU.

6. Provide status reports to respective governance groups or regulatory bodies who may oversee each participating member organization, agency or system.

Meetings

The Alaska Education Council will meet two times a year, normally in July and December. If needed, the council may agree to meet quarterly if agreed upon by participating members.

Agreement Terms

This agreement may be amended by mutual consent of a majority of participating members at a special meeting of the Council specifically called for the purpose of amending this MOU. This MOU shall remain in full force and effect until amendments are approved or the MOU is superseded by a new agreement.

(Signature authority)  (Date)

(Signature authority)  (Date)