

Department of Education & Early Development

Resources related to FASD



EED Resources

- EED's most frequently used FASD educational resources are its two 3.5 hour long eLearning courses dedicated to FASD-- created in collaboration with a cadre of state and national FASD experts. These web-based resources are free for a broad spectrum of professionals and care providers who support individuals/students with FASD.
- One FASD eLearning course is tailored to educators. It instructs learners on what FASDs are, their primary and secondary characteristics, their most common impacts on behavior and learning, and also provides information to learners on the types of teaching strategies and environmental accommodations that empower affected students to be more successful in school. Thousands of public school employees from the majority of Alaska's school districts have utilized this resource to comply with **AS 14.20.360 Required alcohol and drug related disabilities training** since its creation in 2003 and approximately 600 district personnel from more than 30 districts are enrolled in the course this school year.
- EED also collaborated with the Department of Health and Social Services to create a second multi-disciplinary FASD eLearning course for non-educators who support individuals with FASD. This course is useful for a broad spectrum of professional service providers as well as for parents. DHSS uses this course to complement its FAS 101 and 201 curricula trainings efforts.
- EED has a collection of other eLearning courses relevant to FASD free for district use, including Mandated Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect, Positive Behavior Supports and Interventions (under revision), Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, and more than a dozen courses on an array of Special Education topics.
- EED both provides on-site FASD training and assists districts in identifying qualified FASD trainers upon request.
- EED manages multiple websites with FASD prevention/intervention resources for district use like eLearning, School Health, School Safety, Special Education, Alternative Schools Healthy Students Initiative, Title IV Part A Safe and Drug-Free Schools.
- EED is in the final stages of refining the draft Health and Safety portion of its Education Plan. The plan, which directly and indirectly addresses substance abuse and other risk behaviors by school-aged youth. It is tentatively scheduled to go to the Alaska State School Board for review in June.
- The Healthy Alaska electronic newsletter published by EED approximately 9 times a year is regularly used to notify district personnel to professional development opportunities, grant opportunities, and resources available to them related to FASD prevention/intervention.

EED Programs

- EED continues to manage the federal No Child Left Behind Title IV Part A Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program. This program provides districts with funding to reduce violence and substance use/abuse. EED provides technical assistance to districts, directs them to evidence-based effective intervention and prevention programs, assists districts in constructing comprehensive prevention programs, assists districts in data collection and analysis, and monitors Title IV Safe and Drug-Free programs for compliance with federal requirements. All funding for this program has been eliminated and the last of the Title IV supported programming will end in September 2011.

- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports—EED is currently contracting with the Special Education Services Agency to provide on-site PBIS training to a collection of Alaska schools and to create 3 eLearning courses on PBIS for district use. This evidence-based program improves school climate, student behavior, and learning for all students.
- EED's Alternative Schools Healthy Relationships Initiative provides a broad spectrum of health-related support services to the state's alternative schools serving students who report engaging in elevated rates of risk behaviors relevant to FASD. The initiative has increased student access to health services, increased the number of health education classes provided to them, increased mental health services, increased access to life coaches, increased support for homeless students, and increased services for pregnant and parenting students.

EED Evaluation/Data

- EED co-manages the Youth Risk Behavior Survey which is the nationally recognized gold standard survey instrument to measure student reported risk behaviors. The survey captures data on the risk factors that both directly and indirectly cause FASDs. EED and DHSS create a broad array of flyer, brochures, powerpoints, and website resources to maximize the utility of this data. The data is commonly used to evaluate the effectiveness of intervention and prevention programs in schools and other settings. EED has been utilizing this survey since 1995.
- EED collects and annually reports disciplinary data on alcohol and illicit drug use in schools for all public schools statewide. EED developed and maintains a Suspensions, Expulsions, and Truancies data collection system to accomplish this.

EED Positions with Responsibilities related to FASD

- EED's Health and Safety Coordinator position with its emphasis on preventing Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault is co-sponsoring and co-managing a collection of teacher trainings on the Fourth R curriculum, an evidence-based curriculum proven to reduce intimate partner violence and increase knowledge of substance abuse.
- EED's Special Education Unit provides support to those students with FASDs qualifying for special education services by providing leadership, technical assistance, and supervision to school districts. The staff support school districts in providing special education and related services to children with disabilities and gifted children from ages 3-21. Special Education also provides funding to support EED's courtesy eLearning courses for districts and funding to support both regional and statewide training opportunities for educators on FASD.
- EED's Counseling/Mental Health/PBIS Education Specialist coordinates the PBIS program, works with multiple agencies on interdepartmental initiatives like Bring the Kids Home
- EED's eLearning Program and Title IV Safe and Drug-Free Schools Education Specialists provide resources, technical assistance, and program monitoring of prevention and intervention efforts.

Memberships on relevant Committees

- EED currently participates on the Alaska FASD Partnership Steering Committee, the Alaska Interagency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage Drinking, the Preventative Health and Health Services Block Grant Advisory Committee, the Alaska Mental Health Board, the School Health Collaborative, and the Bring the Kids Home Committee, The Governor's Initiative on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention Workgroup, and The Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's Advisory Council.