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## **SESA REPORT TO THE ALASKA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION**

*Patrick Pillai, Executive Director  
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### ***How is SESA structured?***

SESA operates with 1 administrator, 11 education specialists, 1 librarian, 4 program assistants 1 executive assistant, and 1 technologist. We are currently recruiting for an additional 3 education specialists (2 multiple disabilities and 1 autism).

### ***How do SESA specialists provide technical assistance to school district staff?***

Support, coach, and function as an expert resource for classroom teachers working with students with low incidence disabilities, and help facilitate each student's academic progress and social development, through disability specific diagnostics, technical assistance, in-service training, and modeling of evidence based educational interventions.

### ***Service Statistics***

Last school year (FY17), SESA specialists served 400 students in 48 school districts, 107 locations, and 147 schools. SESA's data management system tracks mission centric activities (family support, student consultations, trainings, and site consultations). Specialist individual monthly activities averaged 88.7, and a total of 1157 activities were logged in the database. A total of 401 student service reports were sent to school district staff post service consultation. SESA specialists conducted eight training sessions at the Alaska State Special Education Conference last February and the Alaska Autism Resource Center (AARC) contracted with a national autism speaker (Dani Bowman) to travel and speak to students and families in urban and rural Alaska.

### ***Cost of Services***

Cost of technical assistance was calculated to be \$120 per hour and cost of operations and support \$69 per hour. A 5-hour onsite training provided by SESA staff costs \$945. In contrast, if a district were to hire an independent contractor, the training would cost closer to \$2000 (travel, contractor fee, per diem, lodging, etc.). This is a \$1055 saving to the state for just one training. During FY17, SESA specialists provided 124 trainings – a savings of **\$130,820**. Of the total number of trainings, 40 were conducted via distance delivery, thus not requiring travel funds and resulting in greater savings.

### ***E-modules***

SESA is training staff in the use of instructional design and Articulate software for creating interactive e-modules. The SESA website now hosts e-module courses that are free to use.