

# Education Committee Update



**David Kohler, Chair**  
**Anne Applegate, Staff**



# Education Committee Members

Don Enoch  
Tracy Culbert  
Mallory Hamilton  
Patrick Pillai  
Shelly Vendetti-  
Vuckovich  
Alex Fogarty  
Molly McManamin  
Anthony Cravalho

Kathy Gustafson  
Kathryn Rose  
Michael Shapiro  
Rebecca Himshoot  
Ernie Manzie  
Fred Villa  
Chad Hansen  
Kelly Manning  
Courtney Westmann  
Heidi Kelly  
Clayton Holland



# Representing the Governor's Council

- Leadership Council for Department of Education and Early Development (DEED)
  - Monthly teleconference
- Commissioner updates group on ESSA, Alaska's Education Challenge, legislative priorities, obstacles
- Ed Committee Chair and staff give input on Commissioner's topics
- Opportunity to describe an accomplishment or a current issue of concern for the Council



# Representing the Governor's Council

- State Board of Education and Early Development (BOEED)
  - Audio meetings and in Juneau
  - Public Testimony opportunity
  - Commissioner's Report
  - Legislative Updates



# Representing the Governor's Council

- Special Education Services Agency (SESA) Board
  - Council is advisory board under law
  - Facilitate full majority membership on the board
  - Provide stakeholder access to information about important services
    - Number of students served, number of programs created, trainings given
  - Coordinate services and information between agencies and SESA
    - Council of Administrators of Special Education, DEED, other professionals on Education Committee



# Representing the Governor's Council

- Alaska Advisory Board for the Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DEB)
  - Information from Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, Deaf Navigator Program, SESA, and the State School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, DEED
- Reports on important issues to the Education Committee through the GCDSE representative and the Chair of the DEB
  - i.e., Low rate of grade level achievement, parent conflict on early exposure to communication modalities



# Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)

- DEED's Annual Progress Report
  - Review of annual data on Indicators 1-17
  - State Systemic Improvement Plan (#17)
    - Interventions and training for improving graduation rates in targeted districts
    - Good news: Grad rates improving for students with disabilities:
      - 2016-2017 – 40%
      - 2017-2018 – 50.67%
- Monthly updates from DEED on items for stakeholder input
  - Dispute resolution data
  - Monitoring schedule and results
  - Corrective Actions and Technical Assistance



# Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP)



- Ongoing work to advise DEED on “unmet needs”
  - Alaska Performance Scholarship
  - Rural transitions
  - Compliance with IDEA public information regulations
- November training on regulatory role and authority as the SEAP
  - One of 4 trainings each year on compliance and best practices

# Collaborating to Expand Resources for Transitions

- Rural Transitions Work Group
  - DVR, Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation, DEED, Rural School Districts, Arts Council
- Center for Human Development
  - Expertise on Transitions Curriculum Development
- Native Alaskan Educators
  - Contacts in Bristol Bay region



# Promoting Best Practices

- Inclusive Practice Award 2019
  - Have been selected from statewide nominations
- NEW! Paraeducator of the Year Award 2019
  - Great examples of committed aides
- Commissioner Michael Johnson will congratulate winners in taped message at ASSEC Awards Luncheon



# Paraeducator Professional Development Project

- Scholarship to conferences
  - Partnering with National Education Association
- Peer-to-Peer sharing via webinar
  - Partnering with Department of Education
- Creating Regional Professional Learning Communities
  - Researched models from other states



# Supporting Parents and Special Educators

- Alaska Special Education Parent Teacher Student Association
  - Collaborating on Restraint & Seclusion Follow-up
- Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference
  - Committee members and staff giving 5 trainings
- Review materials for parents and educators on ACT (college testing)
  - Access and Equality Committee input



# Legislative Education & Advocacy

- Bills
  - Following House Bills 24, 7, 22; Senate Bills 6, 10(HB22),
  - Feedback on Deaf Childrens' Education Bill, waiting for filing
- Commented on Proposed Regulations
  - ESSA Amendment (populations served by ineffective and inexperienced teachers)
- Following Policy Initiatives of U.S. Department of Education



# Education Committee: Coming Up!

- Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference
  - February 25-27
  - Awards Luncheon
- Statewide Town Hall on District Restraint Seclusion Practices and Policies
  - March 21<sup>st</sup>, BP Energy Center, Anchorage
  - Watch for parent survey and Zoom info
- Supported Decision-Making Agreements in IEPs
- Training for Parents on Local ESSA Plans



Questions?

