



2010

Progress Report

**A Vision
Becomes Reality**

**10 Years of
Alaska ICE**



Alaska Initiative for Community Engagement
A statewide initiative of the Association of Alaska School Boards

A MESSAGE FROM AASB EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CARL ROSE



In 1991, the Association of Alaska School Boards re-focused its mission around “advocating for the shared responsibility of educating Alaska’s children and youth.” In promoting the idea that it takes more than families and schools and programs working in separate spheres to effectively support young people, we started a journey that has produced positive results, and one whose urgency remains compelling.

When the Alaska Initiative for Community Engagement was created in 2001 with federal funding, it was a small collaboration of like-minded partners with a big idea. That idea was to look beyond the problems that faced many young people and the programs that were targeted at these problems, and to find out what made young people resilient and successful—what it took to ‘help kids succeed.’

The answer of course is that what all young people need most is supportive relationships with adults, and that everyone has a role in building healthy communities and healthy youth. It is through shared responsibility and intentional actions by each of us that lasting community change is possible.

Growing the base of advocates for children and youth around the state has been the mission of Alaska ICE. Partnering with many local, regional, and statewide entities, in addition to schools and school districts, has broadened the web of support for Alaska’s young people.

This report highlights 2010 progress, partnerships, evaluation results, and lessons learned from a decade of innovative collaborations. It also points the way forward, filling us with a renewed sense of urgency and determination to make every day count for every child, as an organization, as individuals, as a community.

Thank you for helping to build healthy communities that support and empower young Alaskans!

Sincerely,

Carl Rose
Executive Director

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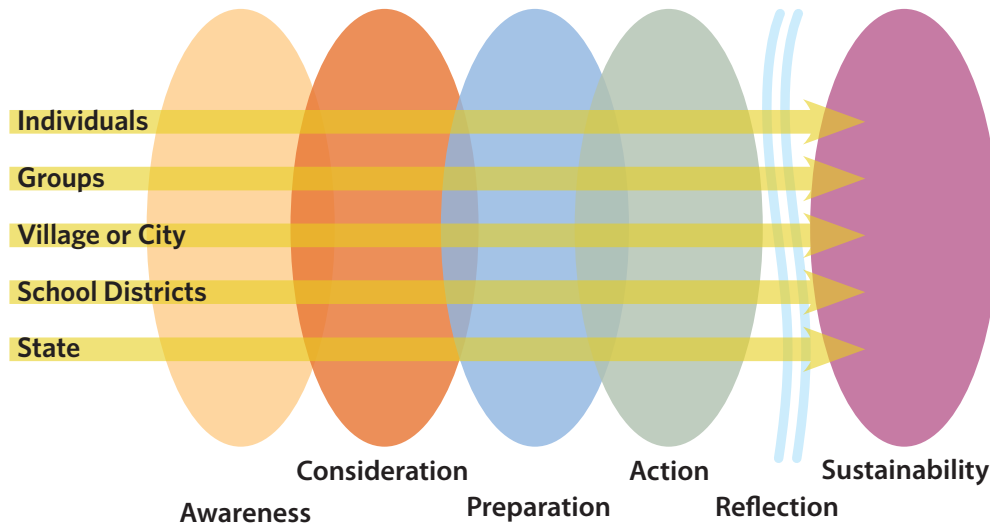
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WHAT IS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT?

Community Engagement is the intentional action of groups and individuals working together to create healthy environments that support the growth and education of children and youth.

Community Engagement Model

Just as individuals go through a process to become proficient in a skill or to change a behavior, communities also experience stages of change. Alaska ICE has adopted a research-based Community Engagement Model to assist individuals and groups in creating and applying systematic efforts to build healthy communities. This model is an effective “road map” to help individuals, groups and communities move from awareness to sustainability in their local efforts to support young people.



This model of change applies to individuals, organizations, communities and even statewide. Everyone has a part in building healthy communities for children and youth, and the strategies we use are targeted to move individuals and organizations along the continuum from awareness toward sustainability.

- Families
- Schools
- Faith communities
- Early childhood organizations
- Youth
- Tribal organizations
- Media
- Civic organizations
- Youth-serving organizations
- Businesses
- Health and social services providers
- Artists and arts organizations
- Individual community members

MORE AT: www.alaskaice.org/ce



EXTERNAL ASSETS

Support

- Family support
- Positive family communication
- Other adult relationships
- Caring neighborhood/community
- Caring school climate
- Parent involvement in school

Empowerment

- Community values youth
- Youth given useful roles
- Youth volunteers in the community
- Safety

Boundaries and expectations

- Family boundaries
- School boundaries
- Neighborhood/community boundaries
- Adult role models
- Positive peer influence
- High Expectations

Constructive use of time

- Creative and cultural activities
- Youth programs
- Religious community
- Time at home

INTERNAL ASSETS

Commitment to learning

- Achievement motivation
- School engagement
- Homework
- Bonding to school
- Reading for pleasure

Positive values

- Caring
- Equality and social justice
- Integrity
- Honesty
- Responsibility
- Restraint

Social skills

- Planning and decision making
- Interpersonal skills
- Cultural competence
- Resistance skills
- Peaceful conflict resolution

Positive identity

- Personal power
- Self-esteem
- Sense of purpose
- Positive view of personal future

*Red typeface denotes the 22 assets that can be directly influenced by schools

WHAT ARE DEVELOPMENTAL ASSETS?

Alaska ICE uses a simple and effective framework to engage Alaskans in creating a positive environment around kids: Developmental Assets®. It is based on 60 years of social science research compiled by the Search InstituteSM that identifies 40 assets-- concrete, common sense, positive experiences and qualities essential to raising successful young people.

The more assets a child has, the better they do in school and the less likely they are to engage in unhealthy risk behaviors. Children develop assets through relationships with supportive adults, and all children need multiple supportive adults in their lives. Alaska ICE promotes the shared responsibility of all members of the community to build assets in kids to help them become successful adults.

Involving youth directly in schools and communities, giving them meaningful roles, providing opportunities for them to be responsible and practice leadership skills are key elements of positive youth development and successful community engagement. Alaska ICE focuses on increasing opportunities for youth involvement in governance and organizational decision-making. At AASB's annual Youth Leadership Institute and Youth Advocacy Institute, Alaska ICE works directly with students from across the state to develop their leadership and advocacy abilities.

“How we use the **40 Developmental Assets** to guide our actions in classrooms and throughout the school is just as important as the academic content that is taught, if we expect the student to learn and thrive.”

— Anchorage Secondary School Administrator

MORE AT: www.alaskaice.org/da



Alaskans' homegrown guide to asset-building: **Helping Kids Succeed - Alaskan Style**



QUALITY SCHOOLS/QUALITY STUDENTS (QS2)

Communities and Schools Working Together for Student Success

Quality Schools/Quality Students (QS2) is AASB's comprehensive school improvement service. Since 2001, 26 school districts have been QS2 partners, committing to a three or four-year partnership focusing on four key areas: leadership, programs and staff, community-parent-student engagement, and resources. In concert with AASB's school improvement support, Alaska ICE provides intensive support and resources to foster broad community engagement in improving the school and community environment for kids.

QS2 District Highlights:

Kenai QS2 communities: Tyonek youth and adults created a public mural at the airport to strengthen community pride and relationships; a youth-led community collaboration in Seward built a disc golf course to provide fun and healthy opportunities for youth-adult interaction; Niniichik youth worked with adults and younger children to create and run a demonstration farm; Nanwalek Elders and community members worked with the school to install photographs to create a culturally welcoming school environment.

Chugach is increasing student leadership, governance capacities and youth voice.

Cordova's community-school efforts include youth-led safety initiatives during school renovation traffic disruptions, Bike Club, bike education and safety training, and Video Club planning videos on bike, pedestrian and fire safety.

Former QS2 partners:

LKSD involved local advisory school boards in reviewing school SCCS results and creating action plans to increase Parent and Community Involvement, focusing on improving attendance, and held a student council retreat focused on improving school climate.

Pribilofs is integrating social emotional learning into classroom content instruction, and involving middle school students with Elders and community members in youth-planned visiting circles focusing on local stories, language, genealogy, and family and community history, and building positive Elder and youth relationships.

Southwest Region Manokotak was recognized as a national Distinguished School (see page 8); Aleknagik students worked with community members to build traditional tools and dog sleds; Togiak increased family participation in school and community activities by providing transportation to the otherwise inaccessible school; and New Stuyahok focused on literacy, hosting a multi-generational literacy night.

Haines is improving connectedness to school, social emotional learning skills, and student leadership through activities taught by community members.

Nenana is improving the residential environment for boarding students, enhancing student leadership training and strengthening youth-school-community connections.

Bristol Bay surveyed community members about adult beliefs and support for youth as a foundation for increasing community engagement.

Craig involved students, parents and community in workshops to enhance respectful school climate and joined a regional capacity building workshop.



MORE AT: www.alaskaice.org/qs2

These districts partnered with AASB on school improvement and community engagement.

FY 2001-03 *

- Denali
- Kake
- St. Mary's

FY 2002-04

- Alaska Gateway
- Kodiak Island
- Yupiit

FY 2003-05

- Ketchikan Gateway
- Wrangell
- Yukon Flats

FY 2004-06

- Chatham
- Dillingham
- Pribilofs

FY 2005-07

- Sitka

FY 2006-08

- Delta-Greely
- Southeast Island
- Unalaska

FY 2007-09

- Lower Kuskokwim (7 communities)
- Petersburg

FY 2008-11

- Chugach
- Cordova
- Kenai (4 communities)
- Southwest Region (4 communities)

FY 2009-11

- Haines

FY 2010-12

- Bristol Bay
- Craig
- Nenana

* QS2 Demonstration sites

Forming collaborative partnerships with others who share our commitment to supporting young people's success in school and in life is at the heart of what we do. These organizations have been longtime partners with AASB, receiving funding and support from Alaska ICE for positive youth development, student success and community engagement.

ANCHORAGE: Promoting Asset-based Youth Development in Schools and Community



The Anchorage School District (ASD) has partnered with AASB in for more than a decade. ASD adopted the assets framework in 1997, and community organizations have followed suit, adopting assets as a common approach to positive youth development. United Way of Anchorage and the Anchorage Youth Development Coalition have spearheaded the development of a community-wide plan, *Anchorage United for Youth*, to improve the environment for Anchorage's young people. ASD adopted social emotional learning (SEL) standards in 2006, is viewed as a national leader in SEL, and is one of three districts recently selected for a national initiative integrating SEL into the classroom. Community youth-serving organizations are aligning their work with ASD's SEL standards.

MORE AT: www.alaskaice.org/asd



DHSS: Providing Supports and Opportunities for Alaska's Young People

The Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Division of Behavioral Health has partnered with AASB for over 10 years to promote and support healthy, thriving communities and youth, beginning with the development of the state plan for adolescent health and in 1998 the creation of the book *Helping Kids Succeed - Alaskan Style*. Training and assistance are provided to state and community coalitions, youth groups, businesses, media and health and social service organizations statewide. DHSS has increasingly adopted strengths-based approaches to behavioral health issues, including adopting student connectedness to school and social emotional learning (SEL) as recognized prevention indicators for substance use prevention in Alaska, and supporting implementation of SEL in schools through prevention grants.



MORE AT: www.alaskaice.org/dhss

"Academic success is an excellent indicator for the overall well-being of youth and a primary indicator and determinant of adult health outcomes."

- CDC Report

AYDC sponsored Youth Development Academies for frontline staff of local youth-serving organizations in 2010: **all 40 reported improved skills** to better serve their youth.



"The Youth Development Academy changed the way I work with my youth. I'm more aware of what I'm doing when I'm with them, and I am more intentional"

- YDA participant



2010 Spirit of Youth Award winners

SPRIT OF YOUTH: Celebrating Alaska's Amazing Young People

Spirit of Youth (SOY), an Alaska ICE partner since 2003, is dedicated to creating, promoting and recognizing youth involvement in communities across Alaska. When young people are actively



engaged in challenging, enriching activities they are less likely to be involved in risk behaviors, and when adults recognize their positive contributions, it creates a healthier environment for their positive development. Alaska ICE partners with SOY to highlight these teens' achievements and expand its positive media campaign to communities throughout Alaska.

AASB/Alaska ICE also partners with SOY to recognize Youth Friendly Businesses that respect youth customers, hire and prepare youth for future careers, support school success, and support youth community activities. The Teen Action Council for Spirit of Youth reviews all applications to determine which businesses meet the criteria.

SOY received a record 160 nominations for recognition from 50 Alaska communities in 2010. In a survey of SOY awardees:

- 62% felt being recognized gained them the **respect of their community**.
- 52% were more motivated to **achieve their goals** after being recognized.
- 42% indicated that being recognized **increased their self-confidence**.

Spirit of Youth received the **2010 Alaska Community Service Award for Health** from the Alaska Public Health Association for significantly improving the health of Alaskans.



MORE AT: www.alaskaice.org/soy



ATMI teens attend the Third Coast Audio Festival in Chicago

ALASKA TEEN MEDIA INSTITUTE: Giving Youth a Voice in Alaska's Media

In 2003 Alaska ICE supported SOY's launching of the Alaska Teen Media Institute (ATMI) to offer students mentorship in radio, print, video and web journalism. ATMI teens learn and practice the skills of researching, interviewing, editing, and production of news stories. They produce the hour-long *In Other News* program that airs monthly on Anchorage radio station KNBA with a mix of news, information and music. This year stories and public service announcements produced by ATMI have aired on 26 radio stations in 60 Alaska communities. Numerous organizations (Alaska Geographic, Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Alaska Mobility Coalition and the Forest Service) have contracted with ATMI to produce audio/video projects, public service announcements, and to conduct workshops for teens and adults. ATMI has received numerous journalism awards and recognition by the Search Institute as being a role model for asset building. Read the article at: www.search-institute.org/hc-hy/teens-making-headlines.

MORE AT: www.alaskaice.org/atmi



Host Shana Sheehy and participants of the "Grandparents These Days" themed show.



KIDS THESE DAYS RADIO: Resources, Advice and Community for Parents



The *Kids These Days* radio show originally aired statewide over the Alaska Public Radio Network as a monthly parenting call-in program in 2005. With Alaska ICE support, *Kids These Days* has been re-launched as a weekly show on Anchorage radio station KSKA and broadcast to 60% of the state's population through its affiliates. An energetic team of broadcast professionals has created an engaging new program that features parenting advice from guest authors and youth advocates, useful information and resources for Alaskans raising children, and a variety of social networking tools to facilitate an interactive statewide online community.

MORE AT: www.alaskaice.org/ktd

THE ARTS: Engaging Students and Communities

Alaska ICE has consistently found the arts a highly effective tool for building assets in youth, creating positive youth-adult relationships, engaging students in learning, and strengthening relationships between schools and communities. Alaska ICE sponsors trainings for artists, educators and community members to promote community engagement through the arts, and funds youth-adult projects that build assets and promote community engagement. AASB also partners with the Alaska Arts Education Consortium to promote the integration of the arts into schools and classrooms through professional development for educators.

MORE AT: www.alaskaice.org/arts



All 60 kindergartners at a Juneau elementary school are learning to play the violin in Juneau Alaska Music Matters (JAMM), an innovative program that **engages families** and **builds school readiness skills** such as focus, discipline, self-control, small and gross motor skills, perseverance, delayed gratification, teamwork, and social emotional learning.

"Since starting violin my grandson is a different person. He likes to practice at home. He hums the songs he is practicing at school. Thank you for bringing so much happiness to a little boy. It has truly made a difference in his life and mine."

- Grandmother of a JAMM student

KTD Radio Listener comments:

"I LOVE your show."

"Thanks for bringing such thoughtful discussion to the airwaves!"

"Topics are very relevant but rarely publicized."

"Really glad you have this show and website for families."

MEASURING CHANGE IN COMMUNITIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND SCHOOLS

A national research firm completed a longitudinal evaluation of the effectiveness of Alaska ICE to determine whether:

- the environment for youth has changed in schools and communities supported by Alaska ICE
- adult support for youth has changed
- youth outcomes have improved in the areas of academic engagement and achievement, social and emotional learning, and risk behaviors

Evaluators found that schools, communities, and organizations supported by Alaska ICE:

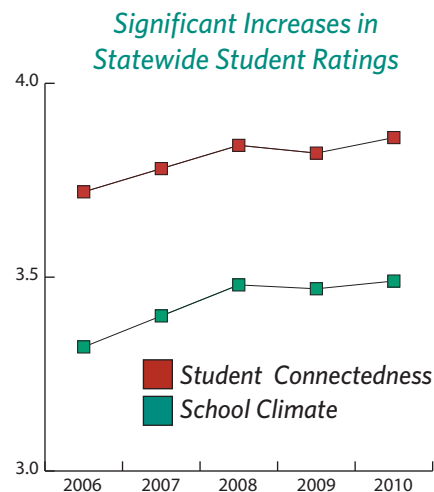
- adopted strengths-based asset-building policies and practices that supported youth
- developed sustainable community and organizational networks and coalitions as successful vehicles for change
- showed substantial improvements in adult-youth relationships and adult involvement with youth significantly reduced risk behaviors
- and showed particularly positive results for Alaska Native students:
 - substantial increases in academic achievement on statewide assessments
 - higher expectations, more respectful climate, and improved peer climate at school
 - reduced risk behaviors

MORE AT: www.alaskaice.org/eval

INCREASING ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH POSITIVE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTS

School Climate and Connectedness Survey (SCCS)

As part of the evaluation of Alaska ICE, AASB developed the School Climate and Connectedness Survey (SCCS) to evaluate student and staff perceptions of Alaska schools. Positive school climate, student connectedness to school, social emotional learning, and family and community engagement are linked to improved academic success and fewer risk behaviors.



In 2010, 39,000 students and staff in 34 districts took the survey, illustrating the commitment of districts across Alaska to create safe, caring schools and promote supportive youth-adult relationships.

Alaska now has five years of statewide data that show a significant improvement in student perceptions of overall climate and connectedness. Climate and connectedness ratings are associated with higher school-wide proficiency rates in reading, writing and math.

MORE AT: www.alaskaice.org/sccs

“The safer and more connected students and teachers are, the better our students do.”

*— Sammy Crawford,
Kenai Peninsula
School Board Member*



National Recognition

Manokotak's 'Nunaniq' school in Southwest Region was named **National Title 1 Distinguished School** for significantly closing the achievement gap between student groups in the Alaska Native, economically disadvantaged and limited English proficient categories.

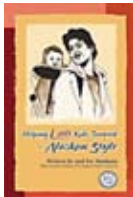
RESOURCE MATERIALS

Alaska ICE offers a variety of resource materials and publications to promote awareness and facilitate meaningful connections among Alaska's adults and youth.

BOOKS



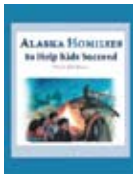
Helping Kids Succeed - Alaskan Style: Basic principles of asset building and community engagement.



Helping Little Kids Succeed - Alaskan Style: "The asset approach" to raising children ages 0-6 years.



Activities to Connect Generations: Experiential activities teach leadership and interpersonal skills.



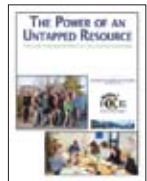
Alaska Homilies to Help Kids Succeed: A guide for faith communities on integrating asset-building.



Helping Kids Succeed - Anchorage School District Style: Insight into school-based asset building, school climate, social-emotional learning and student engagement for advancing student success.



Living and Learning - Residence Hall Environments That Help Students Succeed: Workbook that outlines activities and ideas for engaging youth and fostering a positive school climate.



The Power of an Untapped Resource - Exploring Youth Representation on Your Board or Committee: Written by a teen, this booklet focuses on the dynamic influence and depth youth can provide on school boards and in other organizations.

TRADITIONAL VALUES RESOURCES



Strong Man comic book - Ishmael Hope & Dimi Macheras: A traditional Alaska Native story in graphic novel form promoting traditional cultural values as a foundation for youth achievement.



Another Culture / Another World book - Father Michael Oleksa: Understanding cultural perspectives as essential components for raising healthy kids and building strong communities.



Traditional Values of Alaska poster: This widely distributed educational poster provides an overview of the regional traditional cultural values of Alaska's Native people.

POSTERS



Helping Kids Succeed - Alaskan Style: Summarizes assets research, depicts Alaskan families engaged in asset building activities.



It Takes A Whole Community To Raise A Child: Depicts a community supporting a child.

MEDIA



e-Kids These Days: ICE e-newsletter provides news and information from our statewide partner organizations and youth advocates.



Kids These Days radio: ICE-sponsored weekly call-in show focuses on youth and parenting issues from infancy through early adulthood.

MORE AT: www.alaskaice.org/resource

THE ALASKA ICE TEAM

Sally Rue, Director of Alaska ICE — Over 30 years of professional experience in community planning and public involvement, and 25 years of personal involvement in Alaska education.

Steve Nelson, Public Information Coordinator / CDL Project Coordinator — Has provided communications, public relations and project management services for more than 30 years to businesses, nonprofits, the Alaska Legislature and three Alaska governors.

Lori Klein, Programs Manager MA Higher Education, BA Speech and Language Therapy. Over a decade of program management experience in public education and nonprofit organizations.

Hank Overturf, Board Development Facilitator M.Ed. Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. Educator in rural and urban Alaska for 25 years, 11 years as a high school administrator.

Bridget Smith, Community Engagement Educator MA Psychology, BA Education. Adult educator, rural Alaska teacher, UAS Adjunct Professor, English teacher in China, author of books, articles, and essays.

Lakota Murray, Community Engagement Educator BA Criminal Justice, M.Ed Guidance and Counseling. Seven years with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium in a variety of roles, extensive experience in counseling, leadership and wellness.

A VISION BECOMES REALITY

Creating positive environments to help all kids succeed

A decade of Alaska ICE actively partnering with schools and collaborating with communities to help kids succeed is producing positive results. What began as a small group of dedicated individuals with a big idea has steadily grown into a broad-based statewide initiative with many partners working to build a strong web of support for Alaska's young people. With our ongoing support, numerous organizations across Alaska are transitioning to a positive, strength-based approach to youth development.

Clear evidence of this transformation is steadily mounting:

- More positive environments for youth in schools and communities,
- Increased levels of adult support for and involvement with youth,
- Improved youth outcomes in academic engagement and achievement, social and emotional learning, and risk behaviors, especially for Alaska Native students.

Districts and communities with strong commitments and active engagement over time showed the most positive results. AASB remains committed to building upon these encouraging trends by continuing to assist Alaskans in creating healthy and resilient communities that support kids. Yet as we celebrate success, we must continually challenge ourselves to do better.

Not every child is ready for school when they begin kindergarten, and we know that most children who start

out unprepared will likely lag behind their peers all through school. As we work toward improving outcomes for youth, we will pay special attention to increasing support to families in preparing their children to be successful in school, and strengthening our partnerships with the early childhood community.

Sustainable community change takes time, but it is possible when people and organizations make a commitment to work together to create healthy, supportive environments for children. Everyone shares in the responsibility of helping all our young people succeed, and there are endless opportunities to participate within families, neighborhoods, schools, youth organizations, faith communities, businesses...wherever adults interact with children and youth.

We look forward to working with our colleagues, partners, and fellow Alaskans to help give every child the support they need to grow into healthy, happy and successful adults.

“Changing the environment for youth—the support they receive from teachers and other adults in their lives—will prove to be a far more effective approach to increasing youth assets and improving youth outcomes than the more common ‘fix the kids’ approach.”

– American Institutes for Research, Alaska ICE Summative Report, 2009



Annie Caulfield, Community Engagement Educator — MA Guidance and Counseling. Elementary school counselor for 12 years, first grade teacher in rural and urban Alaska, parent educator, mentored student teachers.

Jenni Lefing, Community Engagement Educator — MA Sustainable Development, BA Human Service Studies. 10 years as program coordinator, evaluator and group facilitator on community development issues for rural/urban nonprofits.

Ryan Aguilar, Communications Specialist BA Communications. Writer, editor, researcher. Design, layout of printed and online publications and promotional materials. Webmaster for www.alaskaice.org.

Becky Judd, State Division of Behavioral Health Resiliency/ Youth Development Specialist, MAT. Networks with state agencies and organizations to incorporate positive youth development and asset building.

June Johnson, Accountant Tracks Alaska ICE multi-year federal grant and finances, and handles day-to-day billing and accounts payable.

Nicole Blumenshine, Administrative Assistant Warm, enthusiastic multi-tasker provides logistical coordination and support to the ICE staff.



EVERYONE HAS A ROLE IN YOUTH SUCCESS. HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Families	can play, talk, read, and explore with their children.
Neighbors	can learn youths' names and be interested and friendly.
Teachers	can make learning engaging and relevant, and have high expectations for all students.
Schools	can create a positive climate for students and families and involve all families.
Community organizations	can provide positive and meaningful opportunities for young people.
Employers	can encourage school success for teen employees.
Every adult	can be a good role model.
Every young person	can support younger children and contribute positively to their community.
Every community	can hold itself accountable for creating a healthy environment in which every child can succeed.

The Association of Alaska School Boards' Initiative for Community Engagement (Alaska ICE) provides Alaskans with information, tools and assistance to work together and engage in the shared responsibility of preparing Alaska's children and youth for the future.



Alaska Initiative for Community Engagement
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