ALASKA INITIATIVE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
IN A WORD:
SCHOOL CLIMATES & STUDENT CONNECTEDNESS IN ALASKA
Partner Share:

Thinking back to your own time in school… what helped you to succeed?
School Climate ↔ Connectedness
STUDENTS: GRADE 5/6-12

School Safety
High Expectations
School Leadership & Student Involvement
Peer Climate
Parent & Community Involvement
Caring Adults
Social and Emotional Learning
Risk Behaviors
“Outside of school and home, I know at least one adult I can talk to, if I have a problem.”

“Students in this school help each other, even if they are not friends.”

“At school, there is a teacher or some other adult who will miss me when I'm absent.”

“I have given up on school.”

“I want very much to get more education after high school.”
STUDENTS: GRADE 5/6-12

School Safety
High Expectations
School Leadership &
Student Involvement
Peer Climate
Parent &
Community Involvement
Caring Adults
Social and Emotional
Learning
Risk Behaviors
Results used by school board, advisory school boards, school staff, community
“Community engagement is most successful when it respects the wisdom of the community and that wisdom is in the people.”
building climate and engagement
ICE PARTNERSHIPS (30 DISTRICTS)

- Safe and Supportive School Environment
- Increase Community Support For and Involvement with Youth
- Increase Family Engagement and Commitment to Early Learning
- Individual Assets - Supporting Post-Secondary Preparedness and Transitions
- Youth Leadership and Meaningful Roles
- Social and Emotional Learning and Trauma-Informed Schools
- Culturally Responsive Teaching and Project-Based Learning Infrastructure
THESE SUPPORTS BUILD RESILIENCY
RESILIENCY TRUMPS ADVERSE EXPERIENCES and
IMPROVES STUDENT, FAMILY, and
INGREDIENTS OF SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:
1) Coordinated
2) Collaborative
3) Embedded
4) Community/Family Partnership
5) Site Administrator Leadership (key success factor)
6) Sequenced
7) Focused
8) Measured
9) Integrates Research and Community Best-Practices
Research indicates that students receiving quality SEL instruction demonstrated:

**Better academic performance:** 11 percentile points higher on achievement scores

**Improved attitudes and behaviors:** greater motivation to learn, deeper commitment to school, and better classroom behavior.

**Fewer negative behaviors:** decreased disruptive class behavior, aggression, and delinquency.

**Reduced emotional distress:** including depression, anxiety, stress, and social withdrawal.

FOUR CORNERS

- Safe and Supportive School Environment
- Increase Community Support For and Involvement with Youth
- Increase Family Engagement and Commitment to Early Learning
- Individual Assets or Building Blocks (Social and Emotional Skills- Protective Factors)
- Youth Leadership and Meaningful Roles
- Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma-Informed Schools
- Culturally Responsive Teaching and Project-Based Learning Infrastructure
ICE TOOLS

Measures & Workshops

Consistent on-going Support

Staff Training and Embedding

National/Alaska Research & Innovation

Planning & Communication

Fun Strategies & Tools

Community Conversation & Coalition Building
BUDGET: FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND YOUTH LEADERSHIP?
ETHICS:

IS THIS SUPPORT EQUITABLE FOR ALL STUDENTS AND FAMILIES?
ADVOCACY: MOVING THE WORK FORWARD - SPREADING THE WORD
FOR SALE: Baby Shoes Never Worn