



ALASKA

State Profile

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
<u>Advanced Placement (AP)</u>	Yes	In 2002, 34 schools participated in AP examinations; 1,688 students took 2,996 exams. The state also has a <u>summer program</u> for high school teachers through the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.	Yes	Low-income students	Yes	Federal funding for new programs; Grant in conjunction with Washington State
<u>Alaska Quality Schools Coalition</u>	Yes	A group of districts work with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to create higher standards and implement the Alaska Quality Schools Model.	No	All students	No	Funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Bridge Programs	Yes	4 example programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>RAHI</u>- Rural Alaska Honors Institute- intensive summer program • <u>ANSEP</u>- Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program; high school outreach component is called • <u>TALPA</u>- Technical and Applied Learning for Professional Achievement • <u>Bridging program</u> at the University of Alaska at Anchorage 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-income students • Native Alaskan students • Rural students 	No	
College Level Exam Program (CLEP)	Yes	Tests accepted by the University of Alaska system.	No		No	
<u>Distance Learning/ Virtual School</u>	Yes	Extensive at the local level Example: <u>Interior Distance of Education of Alaska</u> is the state's largest distance education program	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-income students • Rural students • Special populations in high need districts 	Yes	State regulation and funding
Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment	Yes	Some students may take course for college credit only	No		No	
Early or Middle College High Schools	No		No		No	

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
<u>Early Scholars</u>	Yes	University of Alaska-Southeast sponsored program that encourages academic excellence and creates positive cultural identity for Native Alaskan students	Yes	Native Alaskan students	No	
<u>GED in College Settings</u>	Yes	Adult Basic Education (ABE)	No		Yes	State legislation
International Baccalaureate (IB)	Yes	2 high schools participating	No		No	
Ravenquest	Yes	University of Alaska, Anchorage sponsored program	Yes	Native Alaskan students	No	
<u>Tech Prep</u>	Yes	Students can begin their career education or apprenticeship while in high school. The University of Alaska regional campuses have created partnership programs with local high schools.	Yes	Special populations	Yes	Federal Perkins funding
<u>University of Alaska Fine Arts Camp</u>	Yes	College credit earned	No		No	

Summary of academic pathways:

Due to the size of the state, distance learning has become very important. Bridge programs have been established at the local level to help students make the transition to college. The state has also received a grant to increase access to the AP program, and the state has developed programs such as Ravenquest and the Early Scholars Programs in conjunction with surrounding colleges.



Interesting or unique models identified by state officials:

- Advanced Placement (AP) serving impoverished areas and racial and ethnic minority students through APIP with the state of Washington
- Local connections with colleges that attempt to serve Native Alaskan students
- Use of Distance/Online education to reach rural students

Observations by state officials about special efforts to reach underserved students:

Most existing academic pathways make special attempts to reach traditionally underserved student populations including underrepresented minority students, particularly Native Alaskan, and low-income and rural students. Alaska places special emphasis on creating programs that reach out to local Native Alaskan communities such as Ravenquest, Early Scholars, and a variety of bridge programs.

Observations by state officials about state support for pathways:

Most academic pathways that currently exist in the state are supported and guided by either allocated funding or state policy. The state’s recent commitment to enhancing college preparation is focused on the expansion of AP, Tech Prep, distance learning, and bridge programs funded by the federal and state governments.

Lessons learned by state officials:

- It took a long time for Tech Prep to work. At first the separate groups were antagonistic over the funding. However, Tech Prep has come together because the university sees it as a vehicle for enrolling new students, and K-12 administrators understand that they are creating a new path for students.
- The success of the programs is due to clear vision and specific goals, involvement of champions, integration with universities, respect for the students' culture, and collaboration with partners such as the NSF, University of and non-profit organizations.

Programs recommended by state officials:

<u>Pathways</u>	<u>Educational Institution</u>	<u>Contact person</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Bridge Programs	University of Alaska	Denise Warles	--	(907) 474-6886

State official’s contact information:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
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(Prepared by Christopher Evans/ Updated May, 2006/ *State official reviewed this state profile.)