



2020-2025 Early Childhood Alaska Strategic Planning Process Report

APPENDIX B

Early Childhood Alaska Stakeholder Survey Responses (all questions)

1. What community do you live in? Please tell us the name of the village, town, or city where you live.

Wasilla
Palmer
Fairbanks
Anchorage
palmer
Fairbanks
Klawock
Fairbanks
Petersburg
Petersburg
Fairbanks
North Pole
Ft Wainwright
Anchorage ak
Nenana
Fairbanks
Fairbanks
Tok,Alaska
North pole
Juneau
Juneau
Juneau
Fairbanks
Palmer, Alaska. We attend school in wasilla.
Anchorage
Anchorage
Juneau
Kodiak
Anchorage
Bethel
Kodiak
North Kenai, Nikiski Kenai
Palmer, Alaska. Grew up in Nome until marriage.
Sterlig
kenai
Nikiski
Scammon Bay

Petersburg
Dillingham/surrounding villages
Tok
Sitka
Hooper Bay
Anchorage
Wasilla
King Salmon
Fairbanks, Alaska
Anchorage
Juneau
Anchorage
Nenana
Anchorage
Houston
anchorage
Bethel
Talkeetna
Skagway
Kotzebue
Nenana
Homer
Fairbanks
City
Palmer
Northway,Alask
Petersburg
North Pole
Kotzebue
Kotzebue
Utqiagvik
Juneau
North Pole
Juneau
Petersburg
Anchorage
Juneau
Kiana
North Pole

North Pole
Dillingham
Fairbanks
Palmer
Anchorage
Wasilla
Juneau
Anchorage Alaska
Kotzebue
Juneau
Anchorage
Tok
Kipnuk
Anchor Point
Salcha
Bethel AK
Anchorage, AK
North Pole
North Pole
Kodiak
Klawock
North Pole
Fairbanks
Juneau
Salcha
Fairbanks
North pole
juneau
Fairbanks
Juneau
Juneau
Palmer
Juneau ak
Anchorage
Anchorage
Kenai
Willow
City
Ketchikan, Alaska

Dillingham
Ketchikan
Palmer
Wasilla
Fairbanks
Mountain Village
Juneau
Big Lake
Juneau
Fairbanks
Kodiak
Chugiak
Juneau
Wasilla
Naukati
Palmer
Soldotna
Juneau
anchorage
North Pole
Ketchikan
Craig
Chugiak
Fairbanks
Anchorage
Anchorage
Craig, Alaska
Klawock
Nome
Soldotna
Venetie, Alaska
Craig, Alaska
Anchorage
Kasilof
Juneau
Healy
Kodiak
Wasilla, AK
Anchorage

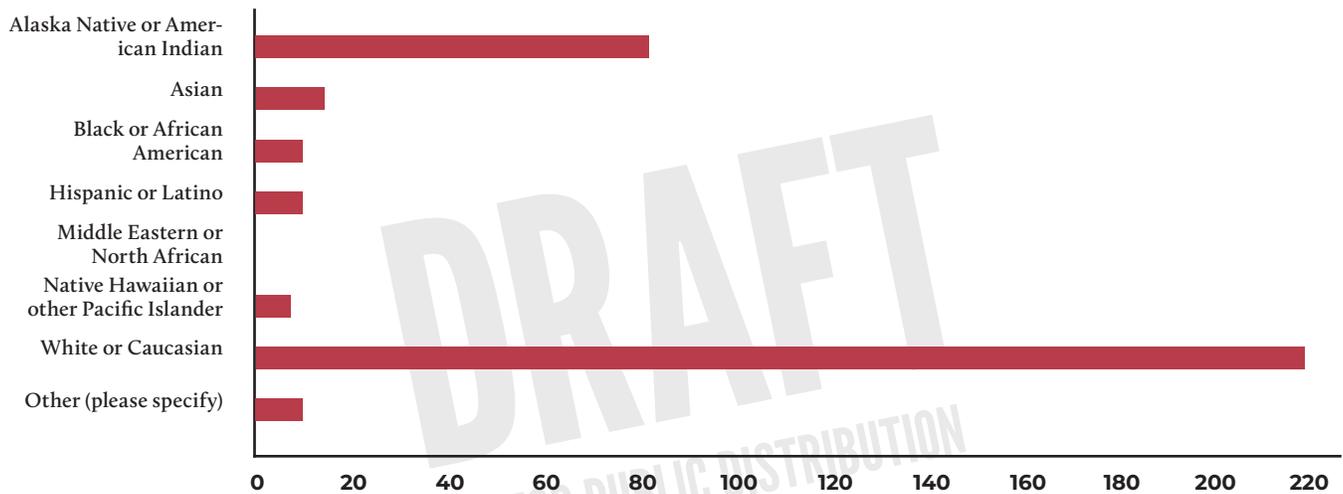
Kaktovik
Juneau
Healy
Kodiak
Wasilla, AK
Anchorage
Kaktovik
Juneau
Matsu
Palmer
TAlkeetna
Wasilla
Juneau
Anchorage
Dillingham
Metlakatla
Juneau Ak
Wasilla AK
Anchorage
Bethel, Alaska
Klawock
Palmer
Palmer
Matsu
Skagway
Coffman Cove
Soldotna
Kenai
Anchorage
Kenai
Anchorage
Fairbanks
Dillingham
anchorage alaska
Anchor Point
Newhalen
Anchorage
Kodiak
Anchorage
Ketchikan
Meadow lakes
wasilla

Kaktovik
Ketchikan saxman alaska
Wasilla
Anchorage
Bethel
Sterling
Kenai
Hooper Bay
Anchorage
Bethel, Alaska
Kotzebue, AK
Mountain Village
Kotzebue, Alaska
Kodiak
Hooper Bay
Skagway, Alaska
Eagle River
Klawock
Skagway
Skagway
Minto
Wasilla
Nome
Anchorage
Kodiak
Whittier AK
Wrangell
Anchorage
Juneau
Fairbanks
Kenai
Anchorage
Russian Mission, AK
Kodiak, Alaska
Kodiak
Anchorage
Kodiak
Anchorage
Kodiak
Kodiak, ak
Anchorage
Palmer

Kenai
Palmer
Anchorage
Sand Point, Alaska
Anchorage
Anchorage
Homer
Kodiak
Wasilla
Anchorage
Manley Hot Springs
Wasilla
Dillingham
Dillingham
Dillingham
Dillingham
Dillingham, AK
Palmer
Wasilla
Wasilla
Palmer, AK
Wasilla
wasilla
Chugiak
Ketchikan
Fairbanks
Juneau
North Pole, Ak
anchorage
May-su Palmer AK
Fairbanks
Thorne Bay
Anchorage
anchorage
Sitka
Hollis
Nome
Anchorage
Wasilla
Anchorage
Fairbanks
Wasilla

anchorage
Juneau
Fairbanks
Anchorage
Wasilla
Sitka
Wasilla
Wasilla
Prince of Wales Island
Kenai Peninsula
Anchorage
Eagle River
Wasilla
Metlakatla
Anchorage
Fairbanks
Juneau
anchorage

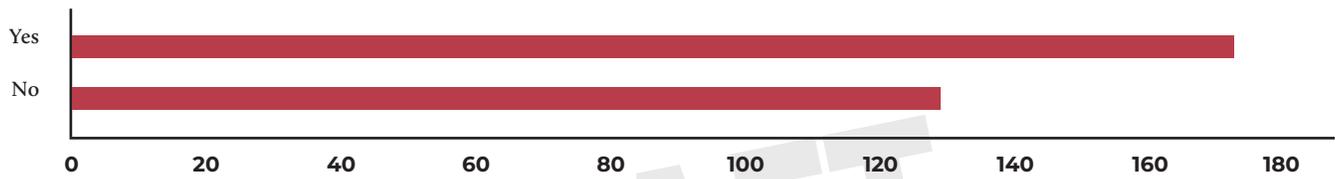
2. What is your race/ethnicity? Please select all that apply.



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Alaska Native or American Indian	23.41%	81
2	Asian	4.05%	14
3	Black or African American	2.60%	9
4	Hispanic or Latino	2.60%	9
5	Middle Eastern or North African	0.00%	0
6	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	1.73%	6
7	White or Caucasian	63.01%	218
8	Other (please specify)	2.60%	9
	Total	100%	346

2_8_TEXT - Other (please specify)
Irrelevant
None of your business
None of your business
Prefer not to answer
biracial
mxi
mixed
Mix of Hispanic and white with a whole lot of other

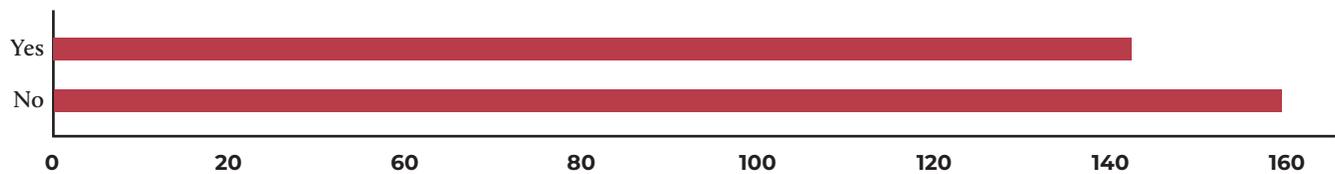
3. Are there any children under the age of 9 who live at least part of the time with you?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	3. Are there any children under the age of 9 who live at least part of the time with you?	1.00	2.00	1.42	.49	.24	303

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	57.76%	175
2	No	42.24%	128
	Total	100%	303

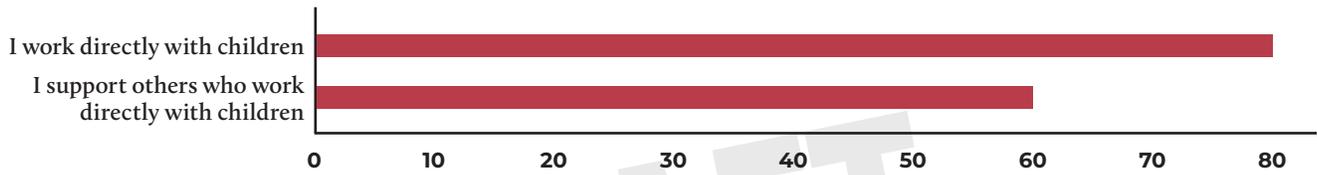
4. Do you work in early childhood (serving children birth through age 8)?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	4. Do you work in early childhood (serving children birth through age 8)	1.00	2.00	1.53	.50	.25	302

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	47.35%	143
2	No	52.65%	159
	Total	100%	302

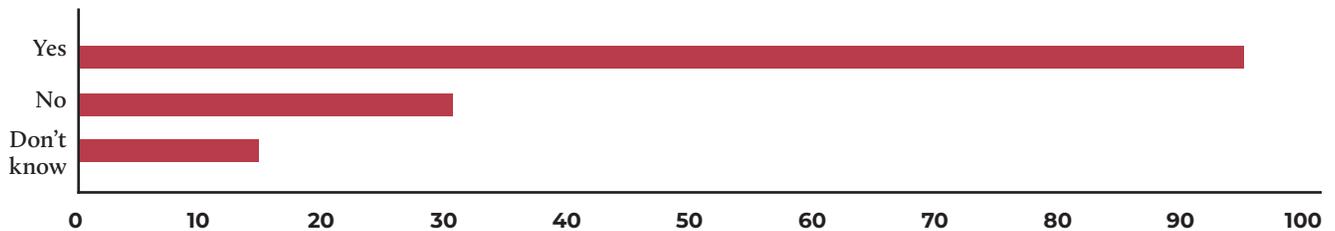
5. What is your main role at your workplace?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	5. What is your main role at your workplace?	1.00	2.00	1.43	.49	.24	140

#	Answer	%	Count
1	I work directly with children	57.14%	80
2	I support others who work directly with children	42.86%	60
	Total	100%	140

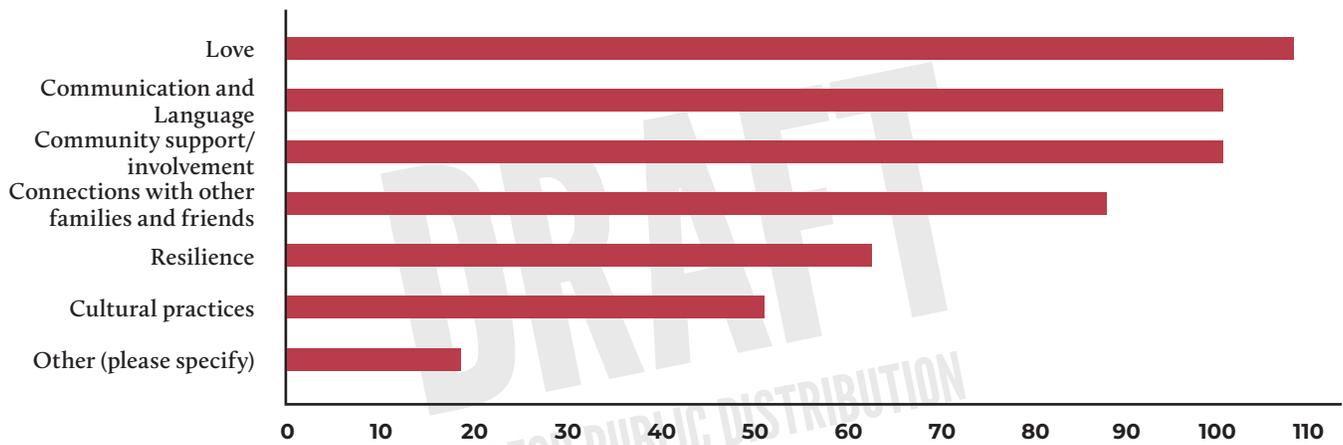
6. Does your workplace focus on supporting Alaska Native families and children?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	6. Does your workplace focus on supporting Alaska Native families and children?	1.00	3.00	1.43	.68	.46	141

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	67.38%	95
2	No	21.99%	31
3	Don't know	10.64%	15
	Total	100%	141

7. What helps to keep the families you serve strong? Please select two that are most important to you.

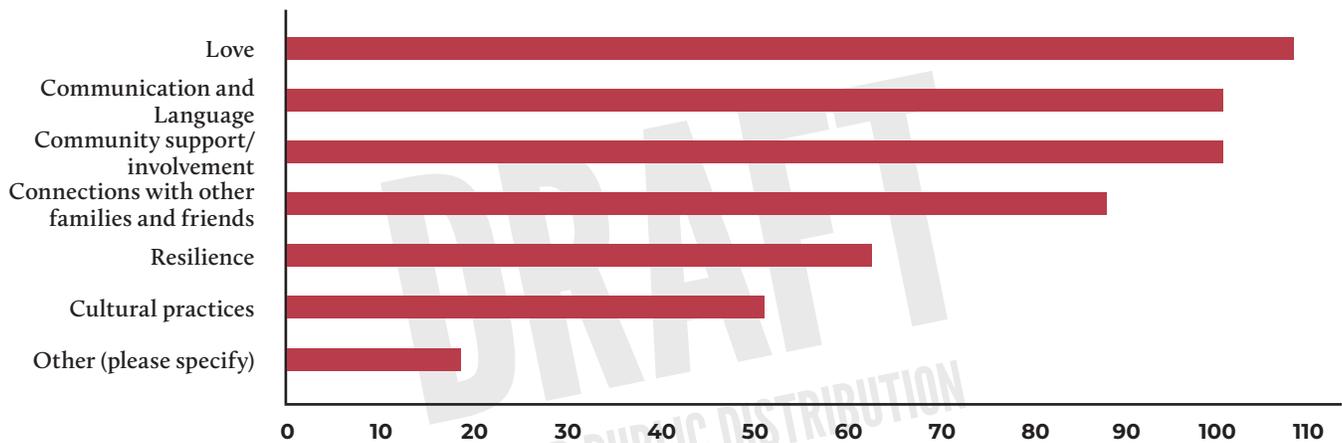


#	Answer	%	Count
1	Love	33.33%	219
2	Communication and language	19.94%	131
3	Resilience	10.05%	66
4	Connections with other families and friends	15.83%	104
5	Community support/involvement	8.52%	56
6	Cultural practices (such as music and dance or gathering, preparing, and sharing food)	8.68%	57
7	Other (please specify)	3.65%	24
	Total	100%	657

7_TEXT - Other (please specify)
Love to teach them what they don't know and it's always so exciting when they learn it and be so proud.
faith
Church
Time spent together, focused on eachother
Our faith
God
Time being with them and connection with extended family
faith
Faith
Jesus
Our faith
Steady income of two parents, able to support the family without a lot of stress about finances.
Making her my priority
Living alone

positive outlook
Access to resources (food, shelter, clothing...)
Community church gatherings
Properly funded resources in our communities such as education, mental health services for vulnerable youth, youth living in poverty.
Work as a team
Respect
God
Alcohol, substance abuse, domestic violence training and services
Engaging with one another through games, cooking, meal-time, bedtime, anytime!

8. What helps to keep the families you serve strong? Please select two that are most important to you.

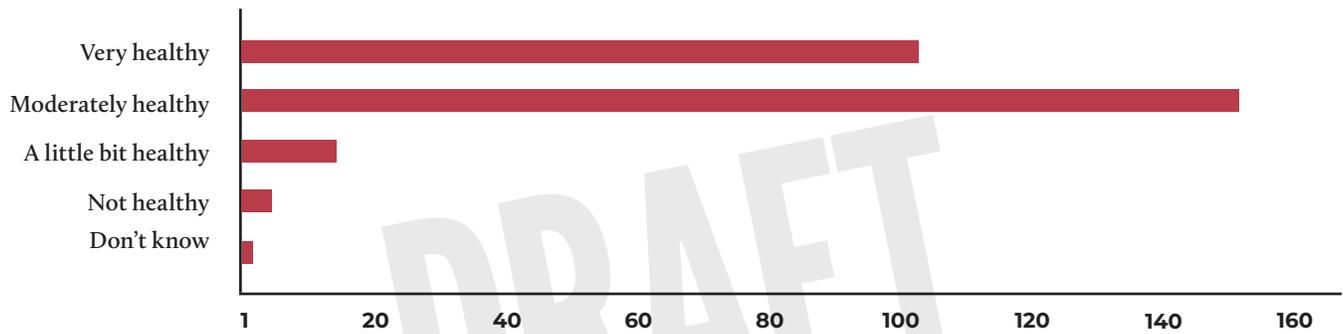


#	Answer	%	Count
1	Love	20.32%	115
2	Communication and language	19.26%	109
3	Resilience	11.31%	64
4	Connections with other families and friends	17.14%	97
5	Community support/involvement	18.90%	107
6	Cultural practices (such as music and dance or gathering, preparing, and sharing food)	9.72%	55
7	Other (please specify)	3.36%	19
	Total	100%	566

7_TEXT - Other (please specify)
faith
Time together
Supporting them
Their faith
God
Church
Steady income of two parents, able to support the family without a lot of stress about finances.
Sharing my experiences.as a parent Now a Grandparent. I show parents calming ways to be with their kids
Making her my priority
N/A
Elder workshops to learn more about Indigenous Worldviews and Holistic Practices
Access to resources
Our faith and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ

Properly funded resources in our communities such as education, mental health services for vulnerable youth, youth living in poverty.
God
Alcohol, substance abuse, domestic violence training and services
Attachment/social-emotional competence
financial support through assistance programs
Having people available to teach skills not learned; through modeling and interacting

9. How healthy would you consider your family?

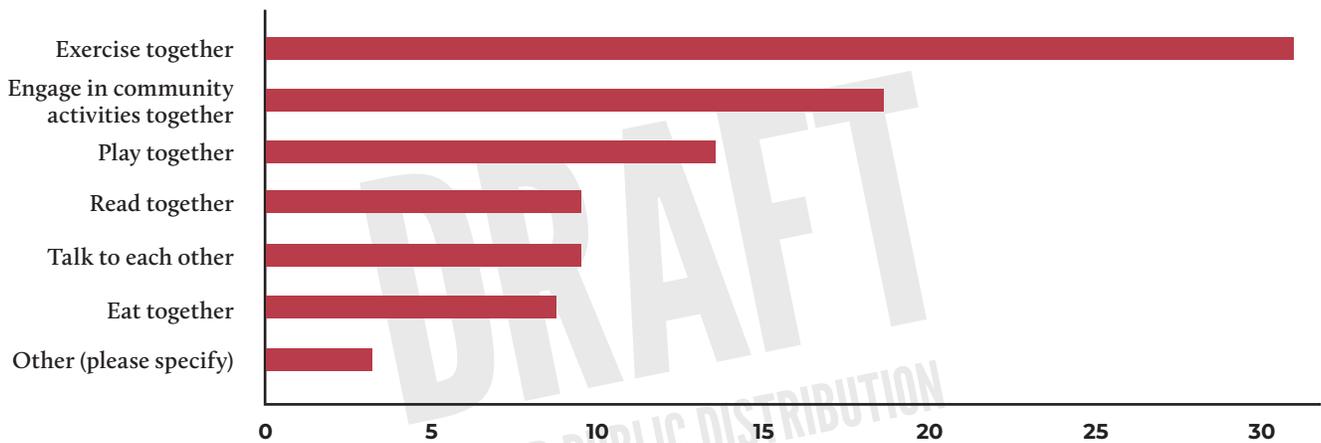


#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	9. How healthy would you consider your family?	1.00	5.00	1.74	.70	.50	277

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Very healthy	37.18%	103
2	Moderately healthy	54.87%	152
3	A little bit healthy	5.42%	15
4	Not healthy	1.81%	5
5	Don't know	.72%	2
	Total	100%	277

10. What do you wish you could do more of to increase your family's health?

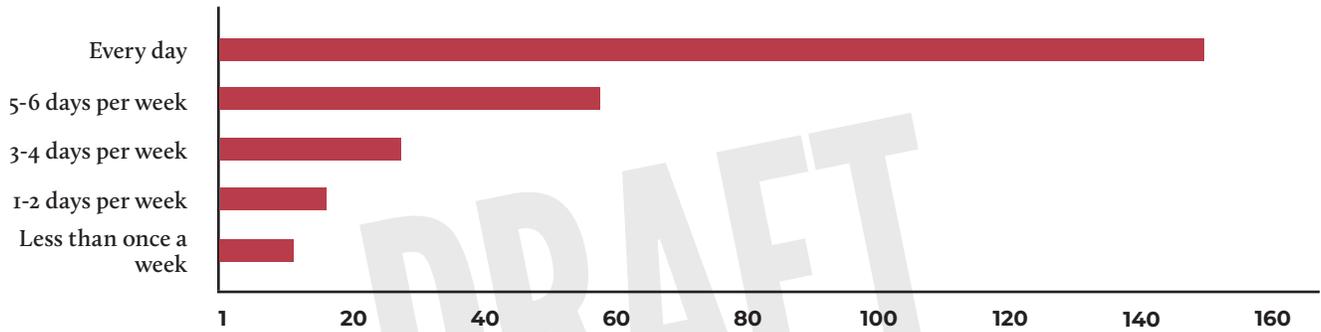
Check all that apply.



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Play together	14.15%	15
2	Eat together	9.43%	10
3	Read together	11.32%	12
4	Exercise together	31.13%	33
5	Talk to each other	10.38%	11
6	Engage in community activites together	2.83%	3
	Total	100%	106

10_7_TEXT - Other (please specify)
Hunting/fishing/camping together
Nothing specific
Serve others together

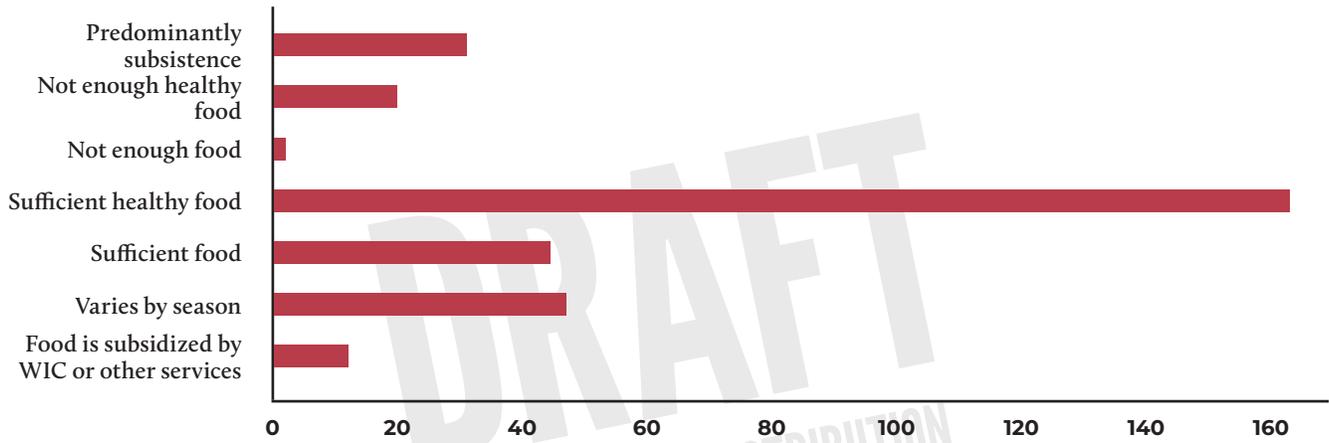
11. In a typical week, how often does your family eat a meal together?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	11. In a typical week, how often does your family eat a meal together?	1.00	5.00	1.79	1.13	1.27	260

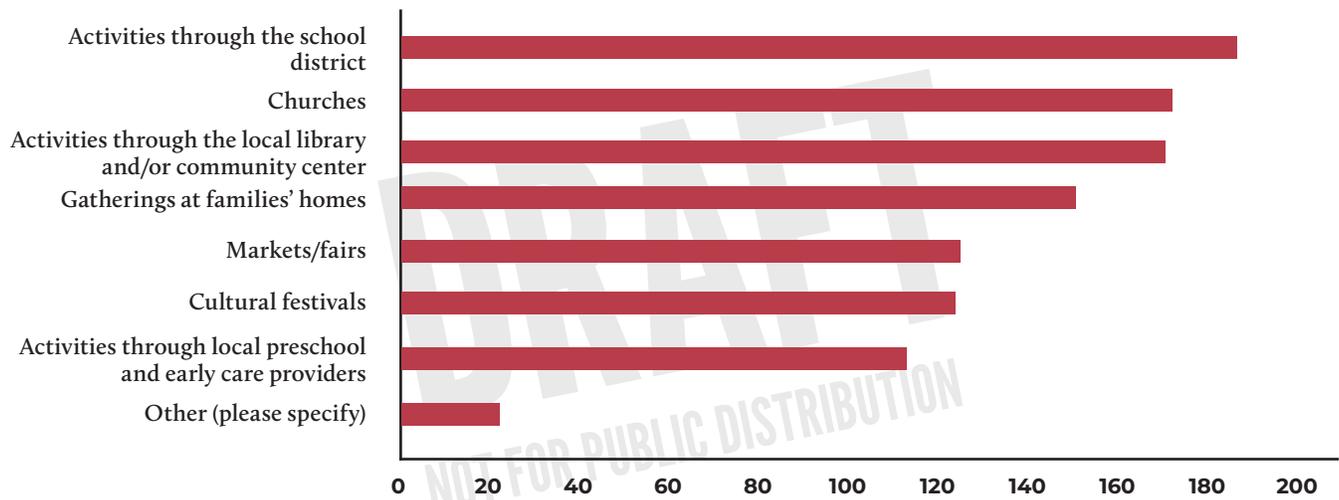
#	Answer	%	Count
1	Every day	56.92%	148
2	5-6 days per week	21.92%	57
3	3-4 days per week	10.38%	27
4	1-2 days per week	6.54%	17
5	Less than once a week	4.23%	11
	Total	100%	260

12. What do healthy meals look like for your family?



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Predominantly subsistence	10.49%	34
2	Not enough healthy food	6.17%	20
3	Not enough food	.62%	2
4	Sufficient healthy food	50.31%	163
5	Sufficient food	13.89%	45
6	Varies by season	14.51%	47
7	Food is subsidized by WIC or other services	4.01%	13
	Total	100%	324

13. What opportunities are there in your community for families to connect with each other? Please select all that apply.

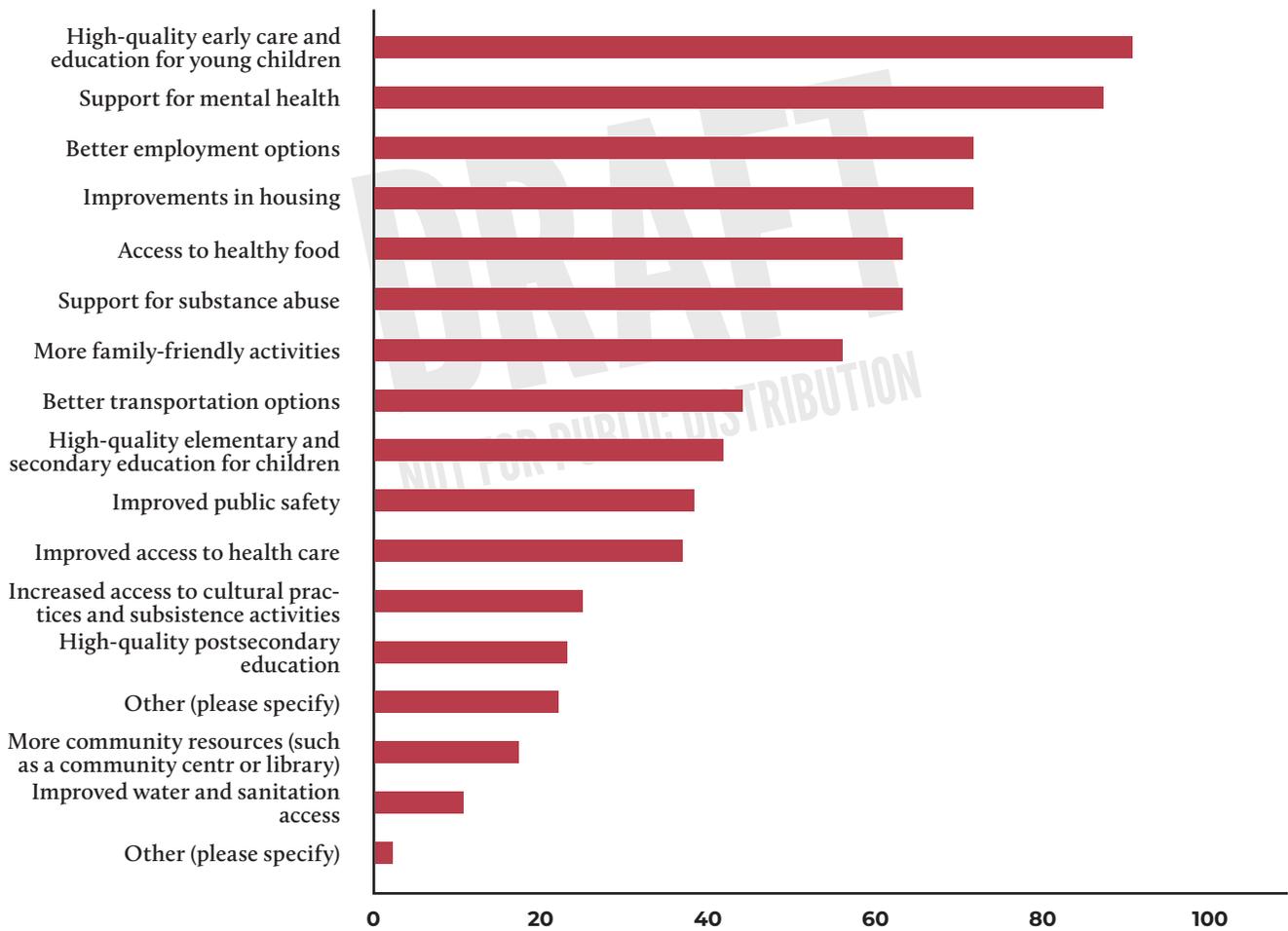


#	Answer	%	Count
1	Activities through the school district	17.15%	191
2	Activities through local preschool and early care providers	10.77%	120
3	Activities through the local library and/or community center	16.16%	180
4	Markets/fairs	11.67%	130
5	Cultural festivals	11.76%	131
6	Churches	16.34%	182
7	Gatherings at families' homes	14.27%	159
8	Other (please specify)	1.89%	21
	Total	100%	1114

13_8_TEXT - Other (please specify)
hunting, fishing, camping, gathering.
Parks and nature trails, mom groups, online support groups, forest schools, classes and activities like dance and swim...
Homeschool gatherings
family nights at the Fieldhouse, Parents as Teachers, Bartlett Beginnings classes
Activities through KGB sports programs
Once a week playgroups for kids under 3
There are gatherings but not for working parents' schedules so if you work you can't participate
City and local kids sports
Hiking, out-of-doors exercise, organized and informal sports, music lessons, museum visits

All of the above
Online with other parents
Cultural activities
sports
Activities through community
Open gym, open library and internet access at school, local monthly market, Basketball events, Movie night 2 times a month, boys and girls club, teen night, beading groups
4-H, Church, and school
I wish there were more activities through these places, we do have some for each.
Dance groups, sports
Free activities for Tribal citizens through STA Social Services Department
memememe

**14. What does your community need to support safe, stable, and healthy families?
Please select the 2 most urgent needs for your community.**



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Access to healthy food	8.28%	66
2	Better employment options	9.28%	74
3	Better transportation options	5.65%	45
4	Increased access to cultural practices and subsistence activities	3.39%	27
5	Improvements in housing	9.16%	73
6	Improved access to health care	5.14%	41
7	Improved public safety	5.14%	41
8	Improved water and sanitation access	1.25%	10
9	High-quality early care and education for young children	12.17%	97

10	High-quality elementary and secondary education for children	5.40%	43
11	High-quality postsecondary education	2.89%	23
12	More community resources (such as a community center or library)	2.51%	20
13	More family-friendly activities	7.40%	59
14	Support for mental health	11.29%	90
15	Support for substance abuse	8.16%	65
16	Other (please specify)	2.63%	21
17	Other (please specify)	.25%	2
Total		100%	797

14_16_TEXT - Other (please specify)

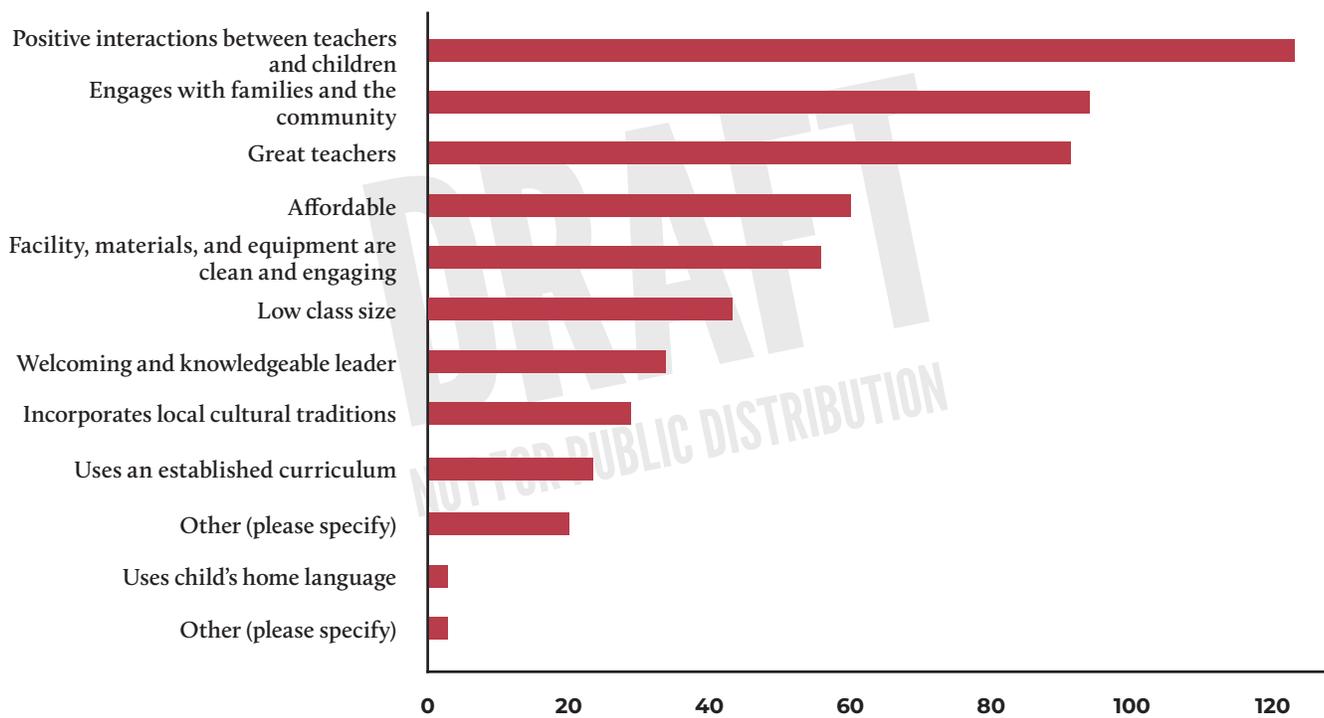
a healthy cruise ship season
More after work activities for the kids w/parents in winter
Nothing. Plenty to choose from.
Community Center, club for kids
More restaurants
Support for families to stay home with their child for the first 6 months of their life.
The community needs are met, these suggestions would be appreciated, but not needed.
I like it just the way it is
More multi age activities or parents and children learning new skills together like woodworking
getting rid of alcohol and meth & their dealers
High quality support for childcare for children that don't qualify with a disability but mental health issue under 7 years old.
Very hard to pick just two. Steady, good income, good housing and substance abuse/mental health counseling are all critical.
More safe & fun options For teenage children.
Less taxes
A task force to take down bootleggers and drug dealers
Train-The-Trainers: High-quality Indigenous Knowledge Workshops tailored for specific age groups delivered by culturally competent facilitators.
Indoor activities for young kids everyday.
More security screenings for drugs before entering our community
Parenting classes and support groups
Better childcare options
Early Childhood hub to get all the resources of EC in one place

14_17_TEXT - Other (please specify)

Smaller more efficient government
Programming that flourishes Indigenous knowledge to foster awareness for healthy living tailored for specific age groups. This knowledge should be drawn from Alaska's Indigenous Ways of Knowing.

15. What do you think makes an early learning program high-quality?

Please select the two items you think are most important.

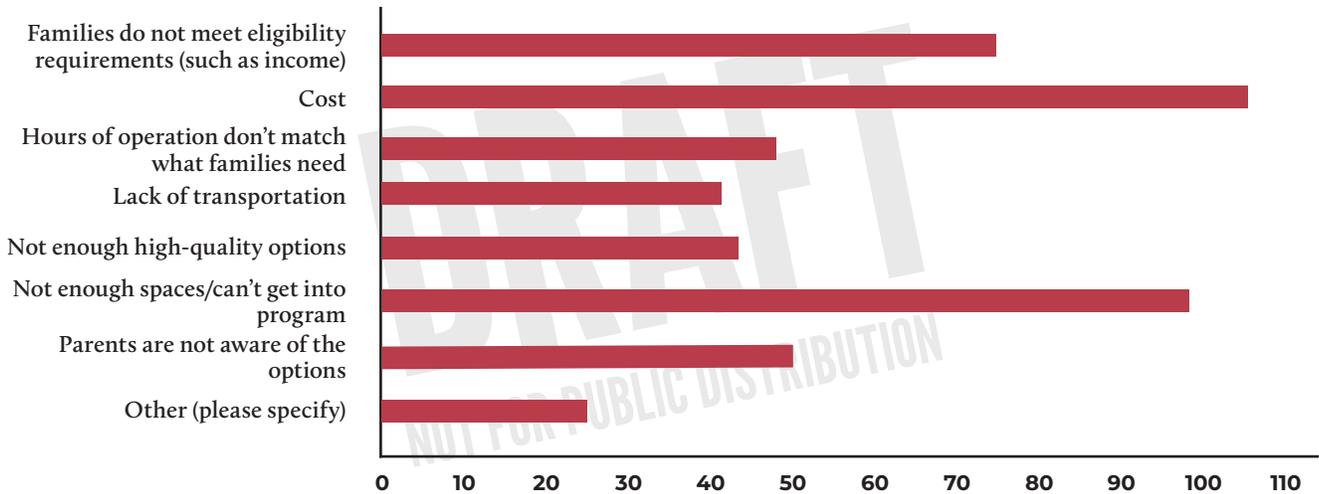


#	Answer	%	Count
1	Affordable	10.33%	60
2	Engages with families and the community	16.35%	95
3	Uses an established curriculum	3.96%	23
4	Great teachers	15.66%	91
5	Facility, materials, and equipment are clean and engaging	9.98%	58
6	Incorporates local cultural traditions	4.99%	29
7	Low class sizes	7.4%	43
8	Positive interactions between teachers and children	21.00%	122
9	Uses child's home language	.52%	3
10	Welcoming and knowledgeable leader	5.85%	34
11	Other (please specify)	3.44%	20
12	Other (please specify)	.52%	3
	Total	100%	581

16_11_TEXT - Other (please specify)
Collaboration with the local school district
best done at home
Early learning should be at home with a parent
An understanding of play based learning
Respecting children, giving them guidance and autonomy
I think small children should be with thier parents learning from them
Play
Encourages play
Have parents there. Support parents to be able to care for their own children instead of giving them to strangers that are paid
Very young children do better in a safe home environment then school.
Love along with great teachers and supportive staff
Larger/more facilities to accommodate more children
Emotional Intelligence
Starts early -- during the mom's pregnancy and the first year of life. As presented by Dr Jack Schonkoff, of the Harvard Ctr on the Developing Child, prenatal and the first year are critical to brain development and later interventions are too late: https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/protecting-brains-stimulating-minds-theearly-life-roots-of-success-in-school/
As a Grandma. I think we need to utilize homes that are in the community.Fir more individual ized one on one and much more loving attention ..I have two part time Littles for a couple years now. They love to come where they are accepted and loved and secure f
expertise, highly educated teachers in birth to three years old
Teachers with up to date training and and current strategies for creating engaging learning opportunities for children
respectful, honest, frequent communication with families
Consistent early childhood programs with quality teachers and aides. They close a lot of days which puts families in a bind
Makes children feel safe away from home and fosters their growth

16_12_TEXT - Other (please specify)
Nature
Has to be affordable to majority
Many parents do not participate with their children because the aides and teachers are “partiers” in the community

16. What are the most common barriers for families in your community enrolling their children in an early learning program? Please select up to 2 of the most common barriers.



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Families do not meet eligibility requirements (such as income)	15.43%	75
2	Cost	21.81%	106
3	Hours of operation don't match what families need	9.88%	48
4	Lack of transportation	8.64%	42
5	Not enough high-quality options	9.05%	44
6	Not enough spaces/can't get into program	19.96%	97
7	Parents are not aware of the options	10.29%	50
8	Other (please specify)	4.94%	24
	Total	100%	486

17_8_TEXT - Other (please specify)

Currently have a grant for preschool so all interested families can participate.

None- preschool is free, offered at the school, and all kids are accepted into the program

Prefer to keep them at home

Parents can't enroll a preschool child in any of the district homeschool programs unless they have an older sibling already enrolled.

No barriers if school offers it.

I don't think there are any

No, secular options

I don't see it as a problem.

No program at all.

Government attempting to strip children away from parents

More kids need to stay home

I believe parents should care for their children. Children should be in centers and institutions from birth

Young children do better at home

parents are unwilling participants

Many homeschool

Programs that work -- early interventions, such as nurse-family partnerships -- are not available in Alaska. Only about 500 babies a year are part of two programs (at ANTHC and Providence), but about 10,500 babies are born.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4512284/>

We are very limited in everything...particularly the number of kids for the need to be there

Parents are too hung over or lazy to take them

the 50% criteria for ilp is to high it should be lower

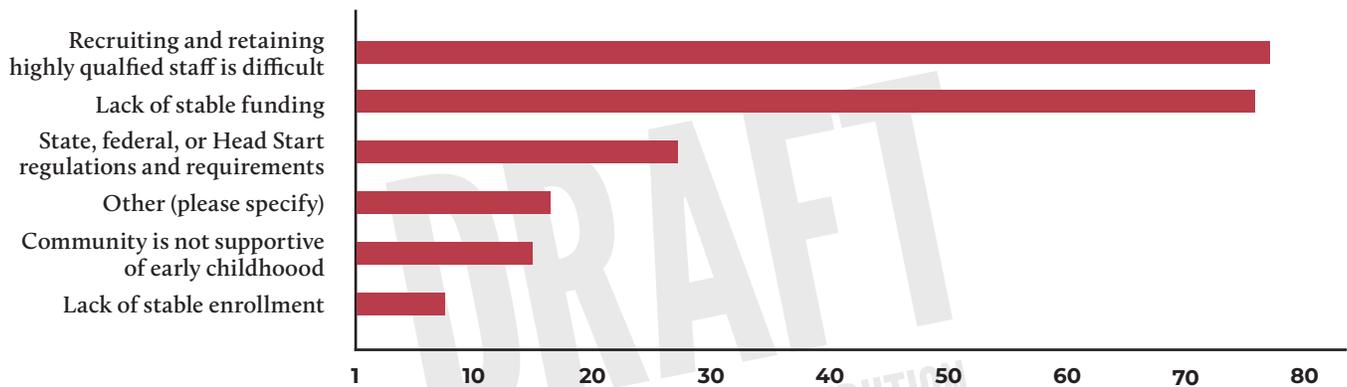
None known

School closed due to parents pulling their kids

The programs that are open close frequently and hire individuals in the community who are not making healthy choices for themselves

Parents have higher priority barriers such as food, shelter needs not being met so schooling becomes a low priority facilities can't provide care for children with special needs

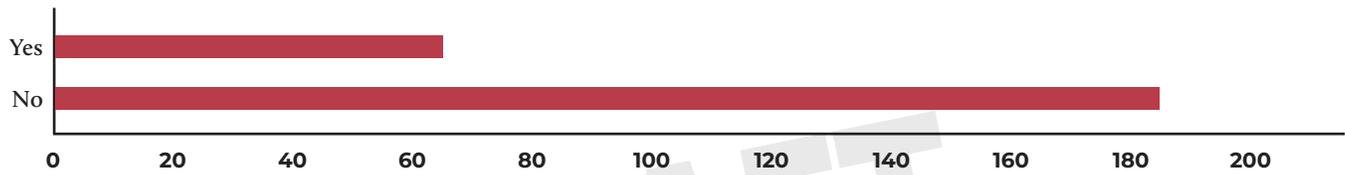
17. What factors make it challenging to offer a high-quality early learning program in your community? Please select the top 2 challenges in your community.



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Community is not supportive of early childhood	7.59%	17
2	Lack of stable funding	34.38%	77
3	Lack of stable enrollment	3.57%	8
4	Recruiting and retaining highly qualified staff is difficult	35.27%	79
5	State, federal, or Head Start regulations and requirements	12.05%	27
6	Other (please specify)	7.14%	16
	Total	100%	224

r8_6_TEXT - Other (please specify)
We do offer a great program for preschoolers, Sunday mornings:)
Our community currently provides high quality early learning program.
I like the homeschool program
Highest quality learning happens at HOME with parents
I am not supportive of mandated pre school
Seasonal nature of employment
Parents are not equipped to teach before preschool starts.
Marginal leadership
Not enough early childhood programs available for the community needs
No being able to provide transportation for families.
FUNDING FUNDING FUNDING....we do not get enough funding in early childhood education field.
City assembly and administration do not know the importance of early childhood and it's economic impact if we invest in it.
Children I trauma need more one on one attention and it is very hard with large preschool classes and not enough teachers to give them the care they need.
Providing staff education support, and professional development opportunities that are low cost.
Having the space

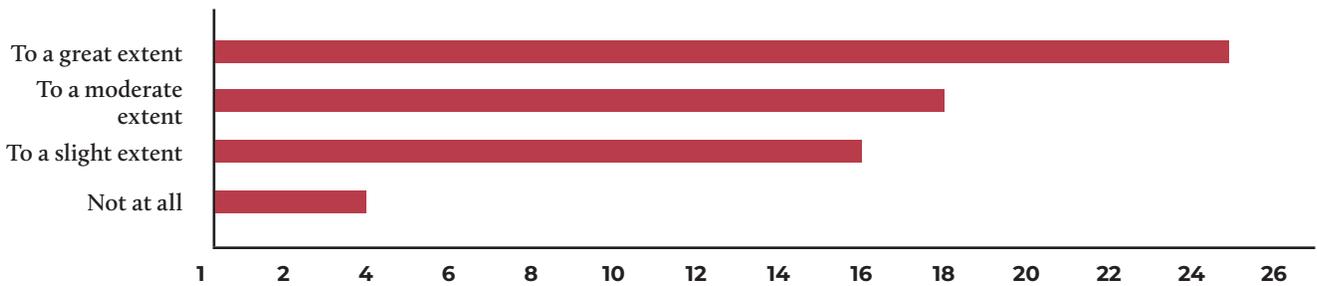
18. Are you currently paying for childcare or an early childhood education for a child ages 0-8



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	18. Are you currently paying for childcare or an early childhood education for a child ages 0-8?	1.00	2.00	1.74	.44	.19	250

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	26.40%	66
2	No	73.60%	184
	Total	100%	250

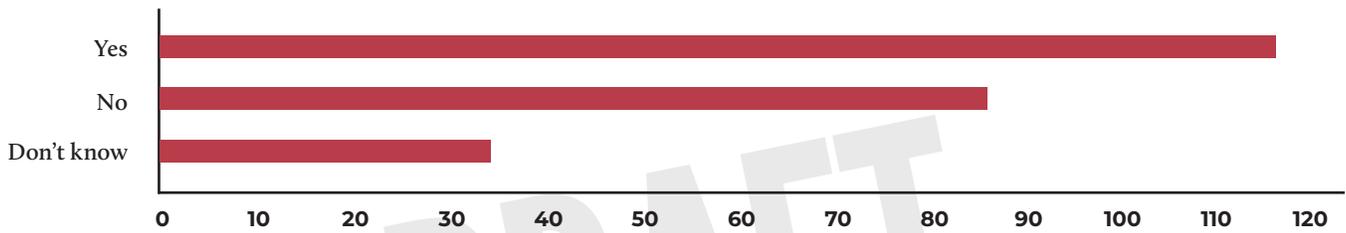
19. To what extent do the costs of paying for childcare or early childhood education interfere with your other family plans?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	19. To what extent do the costs of paying for childcare or early childhood education interfere with your other family plans?	1.00	4.00	1.98	.95	.90	63

#	Answer	%	Count
1	To a great extent	39.68%	25
2	To a moderate extent	28.57%	18
3	To a slight extent	25.40%	16
4	Not at all	6.35%	4
	Total	100%	63

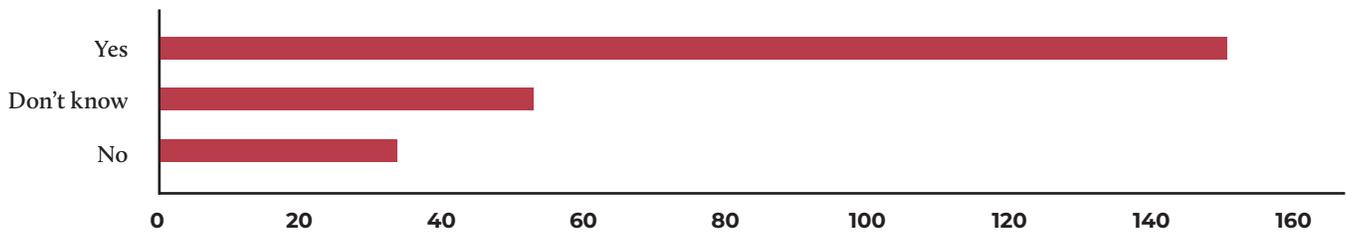
20. Do you think there are affordable early learning options in your community?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	20. Do you think there are affordable early learning options in your community?	1.00	3.00	1.66	.72	.53	239

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	48.95%	117
2	No	35.98%	86
3	Don't know	15.06%	36
	Total	100%	239

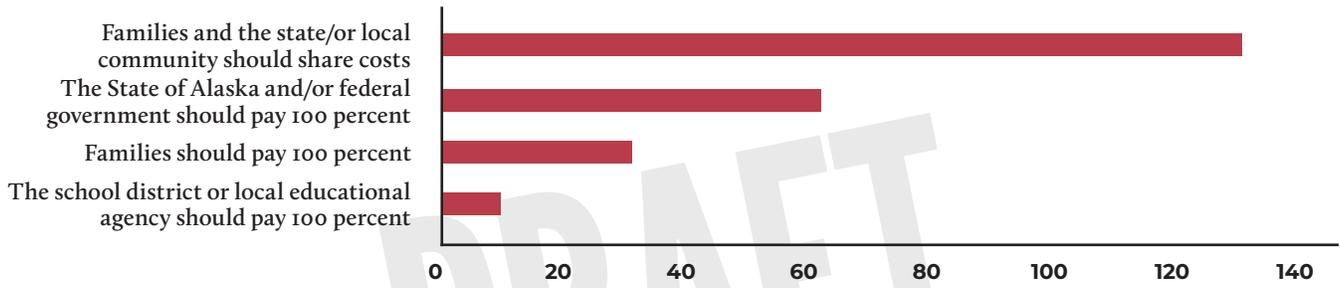
21. From your perspective, do the costs of paying for early learning programs make it so people don't use programs they need?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	21. From your perspective, do the costs of paying for early learning programs make it so people don't use programs they need?	1.00	3.00	1.59	.83	.69	239

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Yes	63.18%	151
2	No	14.23%	34
3	Don't know	22.59%	54
	Total	100%	239

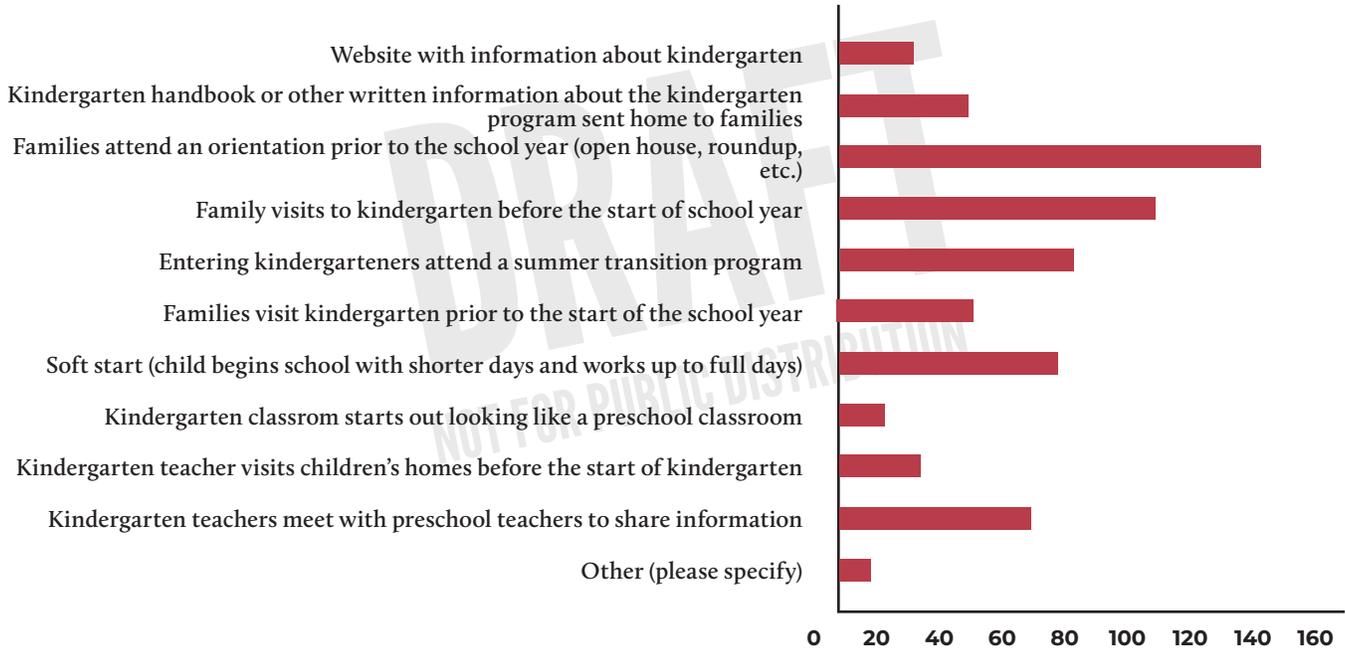
22. Who do you think should pay for childcare?



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	22. Who do you think should pay for childcare?	1.00	4.00	2.58	1.01	1.03	237

#	Answer	%	Count
1	The State of Alaska and/or federal government should pay 100 percent	25.74%	61
2	The school district or local educational agency should pay 100 percent	3.80%	9
3	Families and the state/or local community should share costs	56.96%	135
4	Families should pay 100 percent	13.50%	32
	Total	100%	237

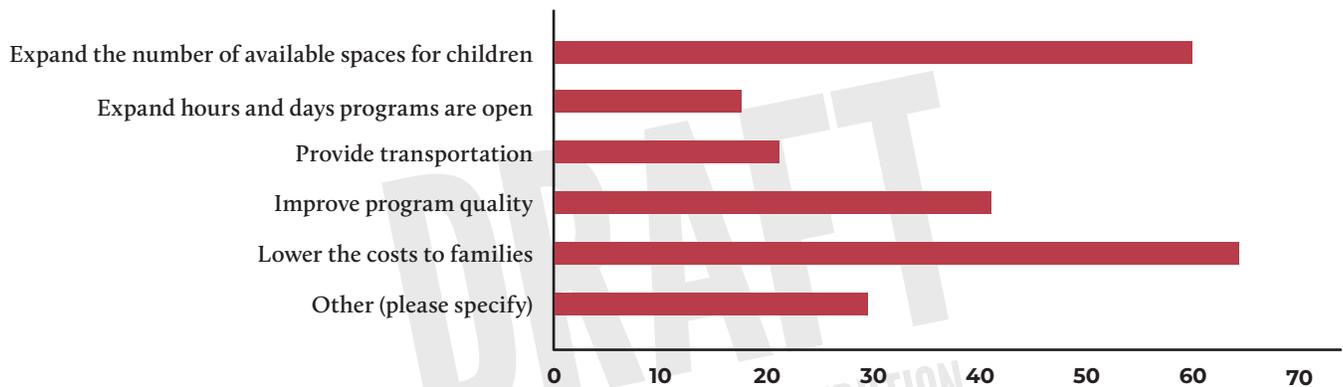
23. For a child and their family, the transition to kindergarten can be a big step. What kinds of kindergarten transition supports would be most helpful to you or for families in your community Please select your top 3.



#	Answer	%	Count
1	Website with information about kindergarten	4.52%	31
2	Kindergarten handbook or other written information about the kindergarten program sent home to families	7.43%	51
3	Families attend an orientation prior to the school year (open house, roundup, etc.)	21.28%	146
4	Family visits to kindergarten before the start of school year	15.74%	108
5	Entering kindergarteners attend a summer transition program	11.81%	81
6	Families visit kindergarten prior to the start of the school year	7.14%	49
7	Soft start (child begins school with shorter days and works up to full days)	11.37%	78
8	Kindergarten classroom starts out looking like a preschool classroom	3.21%	22
9	Kindergarten teacher visits children's homes before the start of kindergarten	4.81%	33
10	Kindergarten teachers meet with preschool teachers to share information	9.91%	68
11	Other (please specify)	2.77%	19
	Total	100%	686

24_II_TEXT - Other (please specify)
Encourage homeschooling for kindergarten; promote the homeschool programs
Our transition into Kindergarten has a great set up in Petersburg.
Organize summer play dates by class to build community and make students and families comfortable in their first days.
Half day kindergarten all year long
More focus on learning through play and self directed education, than traditional academic learning
Homeschool
Kindergarten is OPTIONAL and not required by Alaska Statutes. More should know the LAW.
Honor homeschool options which are very valid
Part time kindergarten
Better education on importance of ECE to get children ready for kindergarten curriculum expectations.
Don't have a kindergartner
preschool programs are provided through the school district with shorter days/school year to prepare children for full day Kindergarten.
kindergarten teacher familiar with local culture and planning to incorporate it
Universal free preschool
The best thing is that the child has preschool experience.
There is a huge gap as to what is taught and expected in preschool to what is taught and expected in kindergarten. I would like to see more of a kindergarten transition class or kinder prep offered though the district separate from the peer program preschool.
For high need or Trauma Impacted youth, establishing a plan of care prior to thier attending school, to be developed in preschool.
Required that the adult family members do a couple of days a month to volunteer in the classroom.
Playgroup/preschool program offered a few days a week, year round

24. If there was more funding for early childhood in your community, how would you suggest it be spent? Please select only your top choice.



#	Field	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std Deviation	Variance	Count
1	24. If there was more funding for early childhood in your community, how would you suggest it be spent? Please select only your top choice. - Selected Choice	1.00	6.00	3.52	1.80	3.24	236

#	Answer	%	Count
1	Expand the number of available spaces for children	25.42%	60
2	Expand hours and days programs are open	7.63%	18
3	Provide transportation	9.32%	22
4	Improve program quality	17.37%	41
5	Lower the costs to families	27.54%	65
6	Other (please specify)	12.71%	30
	Total	100%	236

25_6_TEXT - Other (please specify)
Support parents at home
Increase homeschooling allotments only.
More funding should not be given, that money is desperately needed elsewhere.
I feel strongly that we should reduce our budget in all areas. Please do not increase funding!
Change the focus to make it play and outdoor based
give it to first responders who need a livable wage in Fairbanks.
Head Start
Give it to families to keep them together until compulsory attendance age (which is 7)
Use the money to help parents be the primary caregivers to their children not paid strangers . Actually underpaid strangers
No need for more money to be spent
Expand to full half days so parents can at least work part time especially since transportation is not usually available between daycares and kinder ready programs
Increase salaries of early childhood teachers
Home visitation programs
Spent on the non-profit daycare we have in the community who has an early learning curriculum
Have a preschool!
Anything for early childhood would be great. There is NOTHING here.
Teachers paid more
Building to hold classes
Use the money for prenatal and the first years --BEFORE the usual age 3 and age 4 pre-k, which is too late for the most crucial brain development occurring in utero and in infancy.
There seems to be several preschool options in Palmer, but many families don't qualify for the quality programs like the Head Start Programs. There are other options, but they are expensive and not as Head Start or the school district preschools.
Training for someone and perhaps a stipend to attract people willing and WANTING to facilitate a
program...volunteering can be sketchy and doesn't allow for stability
more LLP services
Hire First People Language speakers into the programming across the board. Custodians, Cooks, Teachers, Aides and Leadership. The boards should also be given workshops on Indigenous Ways of Knowing so they can adapt to Indigenous programming.
Universal preschool
Offer more classes for the community and in addition to peer program, add general Ed classes for typically developing children as well as kinder prep classes for older preschoolers.
indoor playground and cultural learning area and a green space for families to visit
There are no preschool programs here
Healthy Parents engaged in their children
Increase Head Start slots with state dollars. Head Start offers comprehensive services to children (health, dental, nutrition, etc) and to FAMILIES (parent education, health education, adult education, etc). No other EC program does this.
More trauma informed training and support for early childhood educators

25. Ten years from now, what would you like to see for children and families in your community?

Ten years from now, what would you like to see for children and families in your community?
more family leave
More activities for all age groups
Affordable child care for everyone
School ready children who have been read to from and early age.
More band and orchestra classes
Less racist, more open communication between parents, grandparents with educators and school board. All schools should be monitored closely to be more effective for the students to get good education.
All families able to find appropriate childcare so they can work or enough supports for a parent to stay home with their young children if the family prefers.
More children having The opportunity to attend preschool programs
Jobs and affordable training
Parent involvement, more parenting classes, parents being accountable.
Better teachers that actually want to teach
Continued free preschool for ages 3-5, continued state assistance grant for childcare based on income, continued school and library family programs, continued Love and Logic parenting classes offered free from the Dahl Memorial Clinic counselor
Subsistence living. Hunting, gathering and providing.
I would like to see opportunities for families that DO work (exceed traditional income requirements) to have equal access to early childhood education.
Universal health and childcare. Kindergarten prescreening assessments done by pediatricians to help assess potential behavior or learning disabilities. Requiring students to be 5 before August start. Requiring family involvement in school settings.
Families be able to afford quality preschool programs
Parent & Teacher Relationships Parent engagement
Prioritize parents staying home with their young children. That should be the goal, making it easier.
School bus ride for low income families/special ed/speech impaired children
Lots of activities
Personal accountability,
Better parks/playgrounds that include equipment targeting older kids and doesn't have electronics. Maybe a clean indoor play-ground similar to the one on Eielson AFB to make it easier for families (especially those with kids at home all day) to be physically active all year. This would need to be self supporting though, rather than become another money pit burden on tax payers; charge a sufficient fee so it can support itself (staff, maintenance, utilities...). Being physically active makes humans of all ages feel better and happier.
More substance abuse help for families who are trying to get their act together so they can be involved and raise their own children
Non income based, low cost, 10 hour day quality childcare options
More fun family places like Chuck-e-cheese etc, indoor play/activity places like what Anchorage has.
Ability for families to spend quality time together. Support them so they can care and provide for their children.
I would like to see budgets reduced and more services provided by private industry.
Community center that is not over ran and friendly for all family members.

Programs that foster caring for others, encouragement of curiosity, more outside time, and less time spent with kids sitting all day doing worksheets. Ultimately we want kids to love learning so they are self motivated to continue learning. We need to promote strong character qualities.
All kids going to school age 4
More family actives for kids 18 and under
Quality, affordable childcare for all who want it.
Less substance abuse and domestic violence to allow for quality education
A safe building for headstart with all necessary equipment, furniture and what not!
Enough childcare facilities and enough spaces for kids, lowered cost to families, healthy foods provided to children, good educational program, with plenty of free playtime and outdoor exploration/education, kids helping with meal prep, cleaning, etc.
Kids being treated with reapect, non-authoritarian education system
Healthy informed and educated parents who know how to offer or get their kids into higher quality learning
happy and independent from government control.
Indoor playspace
learning based extra curricular programs/activities
Closer families and less government involvement in their lives.
Higher pay and benefits to attract and keep well qualified teachers. Government sharing the financial burden.
More playgrounds and outdoor activity areas for families to use.
I would love to see more families able to spend their days together instead of separated
More children engaging with their families and not in programs.
Quality licensed care available at affordable rates available with flexible schedules easily available for any parent who needs it from birth
A high rate of graduation and continuing education.
Every child that enters Kindergarten has a preschool experience prior. I feel that the teacher could provide more to all of the students rather than working more with adjustments for the students who have never been away from home in a classroom. My son attended preschool then Kindergarten. His abilities were greater than his peers who never had gone befor.
Affordable costs for parents
I would like to see AT LEAST one year of maternity/paternity leave for parents to spend time with their children before going back into the workforce. Affordable and accessible child care/preschool options for families to transition into.
Free or very affordable early education programs.
More affordable care for the children.
Children from ages three on up would be able to attend school from 8:30-2:00p.m. Mon-Thurs with family lessons on Fridays.
Healthy drug free families
Universal Preschool
Options in early childhood programs that are either free or affordable. Teachers in these programs receiving adequate compensation and opportunities to train.
Better access to early childhood education programs.
More preschool options
More oppourtunities for children to be safe and have a chance of a good education and families arent struggling to get trough the day
Access to childcare and affordability
Classes for parents on how to be good parents. We need more childcare options. There are long waiting lists

For families to understand the importance of being responsible for thier own growth and betterment, not waiting for some expert to do it for them.
A new facility.
Opportunities for growth
Better education
That they have access to transportation that allows them to bring their children to the various safe places for them, while they are out trying to better their own lives. Such as getting new jobs, attending work, or going to school
More opportunities for typically developing children or children that have small delays
High quality affordable child care available for all working families.
Better understanding of quality early childhood programs and that cost can definitely mean a higher quality.
More affordable housing, access to childcare, more flexible jobs, job programs for parents
The chance that Head Start and the local non-profit daycare are running smoothly and eliminate the at home daycares that are not certified.
Preschool in all elementary schools.
More uniformed approach from preschool to K. To see the value of preschool and allow parents the choice of where they would like their child/children to attend. Quality programs that are not looked at as “babysitting” would also be great.
Free child Care
I would love to see kids being able to attend preschool regardless of their skin color or annual income.
An early learning program open to all residents
All children are ready for success in schools, and have a safe and healthy family environment.
A much bigger school to hold more children and transportation. We have a wonderful school!
I would like to see an alcohol & drug free community in which children are cherished and cared for. I would like to see continuity in care and education, prenatal through gr.12. I would like to see happy children without fear of others.
I would like to see childcare options offered at minimal/no cost provided by employers and the state.
More options for care!
I would like to see a much larger percentage of students entering Kindergarten with necessary skills. I would like to see that leading to success in the upper grades. I would like to see families not have to worry about employment and food and instead be able to focus on family.
Teachers have a good salary and cost of childcare is based on income but any income is accepted
A separate early learning center that is geared to the students.
Free/affordable childcare and and preschool options
Better knowledge
SPED resources for our Federal Preschool.
Pre-K access for all people!
Early intervention and educational supports in early education
Planned, spaced births, with training of parents in healthy brain development during pregnancy and then additional adequate supports for the new family in the first year to reduce Alaska’s highest-in-the-country rates of abuse and neglect, and to promote healthy brain development. There is no agency or program reaching Alaskan families at the moment, who are pregnant with a baby or in the first year of life. See discussion above about the few Alaskans who benefit from Nurse-Family Partnerships. Additionally, the Parents as Teachers effort reaches woefully few Alaskans (perhaps less than 200?). At an Alaska House Education Committee meeting on Feb 5, 2020, the testimony was that 200 kids in 157 families in Anchorage, Haines, Hoonah, Juneau, Kake, and Kodiak. It may be only 120 kids.
Statewide. Per testimony of Joan Lion, AYEC and Kristen Bramsted, Ruralcap.

Yugtun materials
The tribe should use their leadership roles and it should be owned by the tribe
Affordable childcare
I hope to see that high income families get the chance to start their children when they want and not have to be put on a waiting list just because someone makes a little more money then others and not even by much doesn't mean they can afford it they have a lot of bills that's why they work so hard such as me and my husband
Joint community and learning activities as well as physical and healthy minds and body activities. Pre-K programs offered for all.
No closures.. early childhood is important!
An affordable preschool program(s) that was available to all 3-4 year old children. Staffed by professionals who are well-trained and love their jobs.
Holistic natural play for children
I would like to see high quality preschool and child care with certified Teachers, low class size, and clean and safe environments available for every child at very affordable cost for their family.
A high quality community recreation center that incorporates child care programs with adult activities that promote a healthy life style.
Because we only have 12 students enrolled in our school, the kids are all mixed together, and it seems like the ones who could work at a higher level do not have that chance. And the ones at the lower end are not challenged enough.
Each should have individualized programs and be allowed to excel if the chance is there
I would like to see the families with the most severe need be able to utilize the community programs, become empowered so that in the future, they are no longer have the need to be dependent on community programs.
That they have affordable childcare for young families..
Free childcare for pre-K through middle school
Preschool for ALL 4 year olds in their home school
NA
to be a successful one
More home daycares run by Experienced Grandma's who know way more than we give them credit for.
All third graders reading at a third grade level. No more bootlegging or drug dealing. Safe, healthy families.
Universal Pre-k, though college.
Transportation provided. Lower cost (use daycare subsidies already in place) small class size programs
All children served.
Ilitqusaitnuun
More ilp services. Seems there is a shortage of ilp workers available to serve babies more often due to limited budgeting for ilp workers. I should be able to have weekly services but they are over capacity to see us weekly.
Developmental preschool in the school
A inclusive day car
Healthy options for children learning how to interact with each other.
Since Alaska currently doesn't have a college to educate new teachers the future of education in the state is very bleak. Shutting down schools to fund the PFD for people that shouldn't even be allowed to claim it is ridiculous! The students that actually need help like my daughter would slip through the cracks. The options for education are way below expectations for many families. I will not be having my children attend public school. The quality of education they would receive is far below that of the lower 48.
More programs for ages 0-5 with more community partners involved, not just the school district.
I already like what the Head Start program is doing; supporting families, including parental needs, which will better their ability to support their children.

Camaraderie
I would like to see a fully functioning full day early childhood program for all qualified students.
Evidence-based teaching practices delivered by locally-raised teachers
Speaking in conversational First People languages. Succeed in whatever they choose to pursue, Westernized Ways of Living, Indigenous Ways of Living OR both. While doing it, they should be equipped well enough to endure hardships while making informed decisions for healthy ways of living.
I'm hoping one day Kotzebue will be able to get a swimming pool and laundry mat/shower stalls for public use.
Every child in the district has the opportunity to attend a quality early learning program. In addition, I would like to see families value early learning and understand how to support the healthy development of young children.
A child has a place to go for activities at any time of the week.
Wrap-around services with focus on infant mental health, trauma-informed care, and continuity of care across agencies and professions.
Culturally involved programs with indigenous nesting programs~teaching indigenous languages to all ~ child and family
I would like to see DayCare costs become more affordable.
Test and reading scores that are competitive with those around the country. This would suggest out state is excelling in early education.
more daycare options
An early language immersion program that builds with the years. Financial support to assure all families can be involved in ECE. Enough ECE spaces so that all can be involved Quality teaching, including culturally knowledgeable teachers and materials Career and tech classes expanded at high school More real community involvement More health and PE More subsistence activities More music and arts at all levels More civics and social studies relevant to community A project oriented curriculum with ample hands-on, more field trips
Healthy foods in grocery stores and parents realizing the importance of instilling of love of learning and attending school at an early age (to increase graduation rates).
Every year towards the ten years from now more early childhood students will be more successful.
Well advanced in reading and math
pre K education and drug free community
Affordable, lots of openings available and high quality for all so parents can feel good about the care their child/ren are receiving.
Universal pre-K
Permanent Public Safety Services; Increased, regular Parent Involvement in all classrooms; Integration of local Culture into School Curriculum; Monthly Cultural Activities and/or Cultural "themes" each month; Formation of local Parent/Student/Teacher Group that meets regularly to bring Community & School Closer.
Low cost, high quality programs with outdoor opportunities and less emphasis on academics
Public full time preschool education
A preschool at each elementary school.
More preschool options for the community so kids can enter into kindergarten ready.
Fully funded early childhood programs that provide low classroom numbers and quality services.
Ten years from now I would like to see resilient families who create connections in the home and more prevention options for children who are at-risk of mental illness, drug abuse, domestic abuse, suicide, and a life of crime in Alaska. To help all children break the cycle of becoming a statistic.
Full access to early education options from pregnancy through high school along with a fully comprehensive whole family approach.
Quality child care with stable workforce. Universal preschool for every child 4yo.

A modern library that is useable and meant to work with all senses and for interaction saw one like this in Christ Church, Australia
Government subsidized high quality preK options.
Universal health care, education pre-K, and Transportation options around work schedules
More affordable quality care.
Plenty of affordable options for children and well-paid teachers and staff.
The school opened again
Safer community
Fewer addictions, more clean housing, family oriented activities year round
Play groups/preschools available 2x week, with transportation, for every child ages 0-6. Regular Parenting classes and weekly parent support groups with transportation.
All kids have a chance to get in pre school and more aligned with the local school district goals so they are ready for kindergarten.
Better curriculum in early learning
get along, help mentally challenged
Better options more available and more affordable quality care
more access for families to experiences preschool for their children
all children have the opportunity to attend a high quality Early Learning Program
Continuity of where child attends, preschool to elementary, so can visit other, previous classroom, teachers, siblings, friends, "to confirm security", moving back to proper class. Inclusive culturally and subjects, interdisciplinary subjects that support each other or have proven to help learning. Music and math, a educational basic, with practical application, math and cooking, works for fractions, measuring, etc.
I want to see more options for families and to lower the amount of childcare in the community. I have two young children and I make to much for early head start but can not afford to pay full price for daycare.....
That pre-school is available full-time to all families at an affordable rate, maybe on a sliding scale. Right now, spots are limited, some are very expensive or you have to meet low income or race requirements to be eligible.
high quality early learning is available for ALL children and free to families. government that puts children's education before all other things because research proves that money spent on early learning off sets the money needed to rehabilitate adults struggling and barely making ends meet like it's always been!
More activities for young children
Higher quality care for children to learn and play. A reasonable price for families to send their children to a higher quality class. All children should be treated equally; poor, middle class and rich.
All children of pre-k age attending a pre-k program. The program forward funded fully by the state and or federal government on a consistent basis.
affordable access to high quality early education programs, with schedules that support working parents
stable funding and expanded opportunities for childcare/early learning.
Early childcare care and education funded federally, state, and locally. Free access to parenting program for all.
Infant and early childhood mental health programs established. Prevention programs strong. Strong families and community.
Substance abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, mental health issues not being inflicted on vulnerable innocent children.
Rather than have abused children removed from their families, remove the abusers.
high quality preschool & better food at schools
We need more affordable recreation for 5-10 year olds- There is nothing for them to do during our long winter

months. ALL they do is play video games. We must do something for our Children growing up w/parents who are drug addicts, and neglectful. I have called OCS many Times on my own son and his wife over all the drug use and
Neglect going on and they do nothing! we must Protect our Children!
Developmentally appropriate educational and social development programs that are family friendly and welcoming.
quality care for all children living wages for staff
Earlier intervention, fewer kids falling through the cracks-plans in place to support the challenged families
affordable and accessible day care/preschool options that not only support children, but families as well with
parenting classes and links to community resources as needed
Stable funding from the State of Alaska DEED to support longer classroom hours and retain highly qualified staff.
access to high-quality learning environments that families have choice about - high-quality might look different to different families based on their priorities
I would like to see smaller classes with individual needs being met. Teachers and children are getting hurt by children everyday. I would like to see children respecting the people around them. I am not sure what has changed but I would have never hit a teacher or thrown furniture when I was in preschool.
All families working or seeking higher education opportunities have access to child care options at low to no cost.
High quality, affordable preschool being utilized by all those that need/want it.
Equal Access for all children to receive quality early education experiences
Every child and family has the support they need to be successful in (pre)school and in life.
New Early Learning Facility for children ages 0-5 with more workers and flexible hours
Equal access to QUALITY early childhood programs, with adequate staffing.
I would like to see more family interaction with their own culture, a stronger Native language used regularly.
I would children and families to feel safe at home and have fun engaging things to do outside the home. There should be good transitions from early learning to elementary to middle to high school to career.
cotton candy

26. Do you have any additional thoughts to share about early learning and your community? Please tell us here.

Do you have any additional thoughts to share about early learning and your community? Please tell us here.
Open to all
My grandchildren struggle and are successful in their school; it seems it depend what school they are enrolled in.
Don't know
Can we can better teachers that want to teach and not just pass the student. And will not let bullying happen? And will dress professionally at all times as these are people these kids look up to?
More child care centers are needed
Fund the local school district adequately to enable them to offer a comprehensive preschool and kindergarten program.
As a Kindergarten teacher, early education prepares students for social, emotional and academic success.
Providing families with parent education on child development and how to be engaged with their child's education
Those years are best under the care of a parent, nurturing that vital relationship. Children that age should be engaged in play, not "education".
Providing transportation for kids to/FM school would be a big step/help for our kids that are in special classes n even
Pre-K or Kindergarten.
It's critical to have
Parents are responsible - it government for early childhood education
Young children do best in their homes, and strong families cannot easily be built by encouraging children to spend the majority of their waking hours away from their family in school or childcare. Parents should be encouraged to teach their children at home at least until 1st or even 2nd grade. Our state already has plenty of resources to use, through the various district homeschool programs, but many parents aren't aware of that option or automatically assume they aren't capable. Parents know their child best.
For the size of our community we do pretty well, but a lower income early learning set up for kids whose parents are really trying hard would be great for the families and their children.
Early learning is mostly learned through play and interaction. Preschool should NOT be mandatory as preschoolers still need to be home with their parents as long as possible learning and becoming secure in their familial attachments.
Young children don't need formal education. They need quality family time, play time, outdoor time. time to use their imagination and lots and lots of books.
I wish more people understood the importance of play and the dangers of too much screen time.
More community events for under 5 yrs old.

<p>Studies show that kids in countries with academic achievement far superior to our own don't start formal school till 7 years old. Please stop trying to push kids academically at a young age when it doesn't benefit them in the long run.</p>
<p>None</p>
<p>I wish we had a head start building here.</p>
<p>There are very few facilities and even fewer affordable ones in the Homer and Anchor Point areas. The programs we do have, have over a year waitlist! For one child, I pay over \$1200 per month. Something must change, or parents won't be able to afford to work!</p>
<p>no, please don't make a stupid law mandating early education it will destroy our youth.</p>
<p>Pushing your agenda is what has destroyed communities. Families are no more thanks to your agenda. God will judge every nation for its departure from Him.</p>
<p>Learning should be through play not a curriculum.</p>
<p>Our teachers spend so much time maintaining child/caregiver ratios, recording every aspect of each child's day (diaper changes, potty training, meals/snacks, naps beginning/ending, etc) that they have little time to spend listening to or playing with the children. It's hard to do an activity when you're recording all this information but it's the first thing inspectors look for.</p>
<p>School starts to soon in my opinion, no sooner than 5.</p>
<p>Id love for the bond between parent and child to be honored. Nursing full term not just pumping.</p>
<p>Let's have more optional parenting classes and more voluntary family support. Let's make healthy families, not take kids and put in early classes.</p>
<p>Opportunity for preschool is important. I want the best for my children and their peers.</p>
<p>Continue conferences for early educators and continue learning</p>
<p>It is difficult to find quality child care for infants and toddlers. It's expensive and is emotionally taxing on the family. A better solution would be to expand maternity/paternity leave so that families can bond and parents can be the primary teachers in the critical early years of child development. It would also allow for parents to focus on their child's needs (emotional well being, education, and health) without dueling responsibilities. Allowing for the best possible start for the child in the long term.</p>
<p>I would like to see a coordinated effort between all private daycares/preschools, early learning programs and school district preschools in our community. It would be awesome if a universal curriculum would be used and implemented. I would like to see state wide a clear universal screener implemented so as to gather the need for individuals requiring further evaluation of special needs. Additionally, that all pediatricians, nurse practitioners who serve early childhood kiddos be made aware of the flow chart should children need further assistance. For parents, I would like to see parent workshops - on Love and Logic Parenting, on language elicitation and stimulation techniques. For the parents who are young, I would like to see them receive mental health support should they need it. Additionally, it would be good to have access of parent navigators for the tribal clinics and the non tribal clinics i,e, to have a pool of parent navigators. I think that the public school districts preschool programs are needed: for those with special needs and a mixture of typical peers. I think that Alaska needs to re start, re fund, the Fetal Alcohol Diagnostic Clinics. If you have any questions, please contact me. Pam Christianson, M.S., CCC-SLP 9076170935 thank you</p>

N/A
Authority is being handed over to the school dishes at an earlier and earlier age. Let's not forget about parental importance and responsibility.
Wary learning is hard in our community because the age is too mixed
I'm disappointed there is so little knowledge of the difference of quality ece programs and preschool. Many providers are undereducated in our area.
The Head Start and NP daycare go to great lengths to provide early childhood education and meet the state requirements with certifications. The home daycares are not certified and purposely undercut the daycare in costs.
It would be good to see the non-profit daycare get extra benefits for being accredited to help it stay open.
I think students who attend a preschool, and I mean half day partial week program have a strong advantage when starting kindergarten.
It is really important for children to start and have a love of learning. May we encourage their imaginations and let them be free to dream.
We have headstart which does not accept all kids and there is no other preschool option. I would love for my Kindergarten student to have been able to attend preschool and I would love for my twin 2 year olds to go to preschool.
Having a counselor there to help support transitions or with special needs students would be amazing.
The headstart program is extremely beneficial for the development our children. In my area, there are only two locations where kids have access to headstart. Unfortunately the number of spaces reflect only a fraction of what the actual need for early childhood programs exist. Native children are given suppose to be given preference however, if the family income is above the limit, that is not the case. I've known several native families who've been put on the waitlist, and other non native families are given priority. There is clearly a discrepancy in this process of selection which isnt benefiting these children. The question is not who should have priority, the question should be how can we provide entrance into headstart for all of our children? Perhaps by offering discounted tuition or scholarship options? Perhaps by building a larger more comprehensive facility and staff to accommodate ALL early age children? The solution to this problem requires a much more creative option that is currently being provided as of right now. The development and socialization of these early aged children are equally important regardless of race/ethnic background and family income. Also, extreme subsidized childcare would allow for more parents to enter the workforce. As of right now, it is more beneficial to a single mother to reside in low income housing, and relying on state assistance to get by, rather than pay the astronomic costs of childcare-which is generally over half of their monthly earnings.

As a parent and an educator (currently 5th grade but previously early childhood) I feel very strongly that our State has been pressured into lowering the cut off age for Kindergarten. In doing so we have many students who are not developmentally and maturity wise ready to handle the rigor of academic learning. Then when you add the pressure to take out play learning and movement and focus on “academic learning” we have more and more students who struggle through the rest of their academic careers because they are not ready. They spend the rest of their academic careers thinking they are unintelligent or incapable and in reality it they just weren’t given the time needed to properly develop and prepare. Lower class sizes, raise the age for entering kindergarten, provide programs for parents so they don’t feel like they half to enter their child in kindergarten early simply for less cost care, increase the focus on play, movement and social skills, provide teaching aids for kinders through 3rd grade. It’s time we support our children and give them a truly solid foundation to grow on.
Smaller communities have limited space and resources.
Early learning must expand it's focus and priority to prenatal and the first year, where the largest gains -- and the greatest losses -- occur. Thanks much.
Yugtun app
More options for childcare availability
Nothing more
We have a number of small rural communities on our island and a close relationship with the school district is imperative for pre-school programming.
More developmental appropriate practices implemented. Less academics and the encouragement of play as kearningfor young children
Early learning is extremely important to every child and our future. All children should have access to high quality early learning experience.
Early Childhood Teacher Training Programs and livable wages for child care providers.
We only have 5 'littles' and the opportunists are slim to none
I have noticed a change in my 3 year olds behavior so i feel that it is important to start them earlier...before kindergarten.
NA
So many parents are needing drug and alcohol intervention .
Our school district offers free preschool for 3 year olds and 4 year olds. My daughter attended two years of preschool free of charge. She is now in 1st grade and at the beginning stages of reading. Without her pre-school years and small class sizes in our district, she would not be this far along with her reading capabilities. Thank you for taking time and asking these questions.
People are trying here, but lack of transportation and affordability are huge issues
I for example am raising my grandson, trying to keep my full time job and since my husband and I both work we have to pay daycare 100. This is not my child why do I have to pay for everything.
early learning starts at birth. this survey seems to be geared for 3 and over. please remember it starts at birth and parents with babies that need extra help need to be included in your questions!!!

Make people pay for early education. Don't allow there to be free programs. Take that money and reopen schools that have been shut down.
None.
There is a head start program and students transition to the school setting. It seems to be working well, but students do not seem fully prepared.
Early learning should never be put on the chopping block, even in tight budgetary times because it is the best investment in the future - both metaphorically and literally - that the state can make
These thoughts I've written are not meant to voice any retaliation to the colonization of Indigenous Alaska. They are meant to add value to what we have already, mainly to integrate Indigenous Ways to Early Childhood Development and continue seeking ways to improve outcomes.
I think we as a community would have less bullying for kids who would be able to wash their clothes or take daily showers, closing down the liquor store for families who suffer the consequences of death and/or missing school/work.
I would like to see increased enrollment in the pre-kindergarten programs and higher attendance and family engagement.
We need a safe place for anyone that needs a safe place to go to.
Need more oversight on how certain fed/state programs are run. Wish there were more Montessori-based learning choices.
More family involvement that involves more cultural roots
Thank you for this survey. There are too many kids that don't get into ECE and I don't know if it is space or costs, or both. Proven that this helps kids much. They deserve it, same as they deserve free available public schools. Our kindergartens are quite good, but we need more cultural relevancy from ECE thru grade 12. also trauma-trained teachers.
The funding for 0-3 and Head Start isn't consistent so it's hard to manage year to year. We have to cut slots and/or entire programs in communities.
Most or all aides should be developed professionally to become Reading Specialists for all early childhood education in every school.
State MUST fund early learning
In our community it is all about building relationships with each other, having trust so everyone is felt heard.
With Parents being the very First Teachers, we need to be more innovative to engage Parents in classrooms so parents/gaurdians will be actioiv ely involved in and out of classroom throughout students K-12 education. Also, ensuring students leave grade 3 reading at grade level 3.
Early intervention is important to this community. Mental health is a major factor for families!
Early education in addition to family connections are essential to a thriving community, will help create a brighter future for our children, and is the key to prevention.

The number of children (0-3) going to substandard child care is appalling. "Teachers" come and go. There is not a focus on the importance of the relationship between a caregiver and the kids. Caregiving is focused on budgets and not on doing what's best for kids. This comment is mainly for center based care.
Community elders and cultural should be taught through food and activities with the children and stories.
PreK teacher education on working w students with special needs, family outreach, community collaboration of agencies etc. Serving PreK families.
The closing of the school and lack of local preschool is hurting the kids and community.
We need to start visiting homes earlier like two years of age. Safety first
Providing support and intervention at the earliest ages is the best prevention for difficulties later in life.
Right now low income kids are first to get in but we need more options for parents that work but can't afford to send kids to private pre school.
Considering how fundamental and crucial and important the first three years are in every human beings existence I truly hope that it becomes more and more of a priority in our society and communities to provide all people with the opportunity to be safe, educated, and well nourished in an early learning environment. This would be the ultimate goal in my mind.
preschool is a great start for any child to be able to attend
Many kids from minority cultures are falling behind early on, by Jr high so far need alternative school. Family's are not traditional, 5-6 graders are helping little brother and sister, getting them to bed, making them get up; can be substance abuse, lack of living wage, whatever the reason parents are unavailable, or unable.
MORE FUNDING IS NEEDED- We need to get kids ready for kindergarten and early childhood education is important.
there just never seem to be enough spots available for pre-school for hard working, middle class families that aren't minorities.
there also needs to be a focus on early learning and care staff getting pay and benefits that are comparable to school district staff so that early learning professionals will be retained. turnover rate is way to high in early learning causing programs struggling to train for high quality.
improve employment and education. so we not struggling to provide for our families & improve our community.
Stronger leadership
Early childhood education is very important and neglected. People that love working with children and would enjoy being a pre-k instructor cannot earn a living wage.
We need to educate the whole community on the importance of early relationships and early childhood care and education. This might mean more advertisement on the state's end. That early childhood is just as important or more important than other stages of a child's life, since the first 5 years are the most critical for brain development.
if A Child does not have a happy and stable home Life - he is going to have difficulty in school!
Early learning is paramount for educational and social success for our children.

I do think trauma informed care is important but I also think it is important to be respected as a teacher. I can't wrap my head around children who are 4 and 5 hitting, kicking and screaming at their teachers and classmates. I am a teacher and I have a least five children who do this in my class.

The Early Childhood system is so very fragmented. Increasing services is important, but great gains in Alaska can be found by increasing governance, coordination, and collaboration in existing services.

There is a lot of burn-out among early childhood educators, causing staff turnover to be high. We need more supports in place to train them, as well as improved pay.

More summer, spring break, holiday, and weekend options. When there isn't school, sometimes its hard to find things to do.

candied apples

DRAFT
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