Introduction to Alaska's Early Childhood System

Areas to highlight…

Governance and Regulatory Structures

Funding Streams and Mechanisms

Child Development and Family Support Resources

Efforts to Increase Quality and Professionalism in Child Care

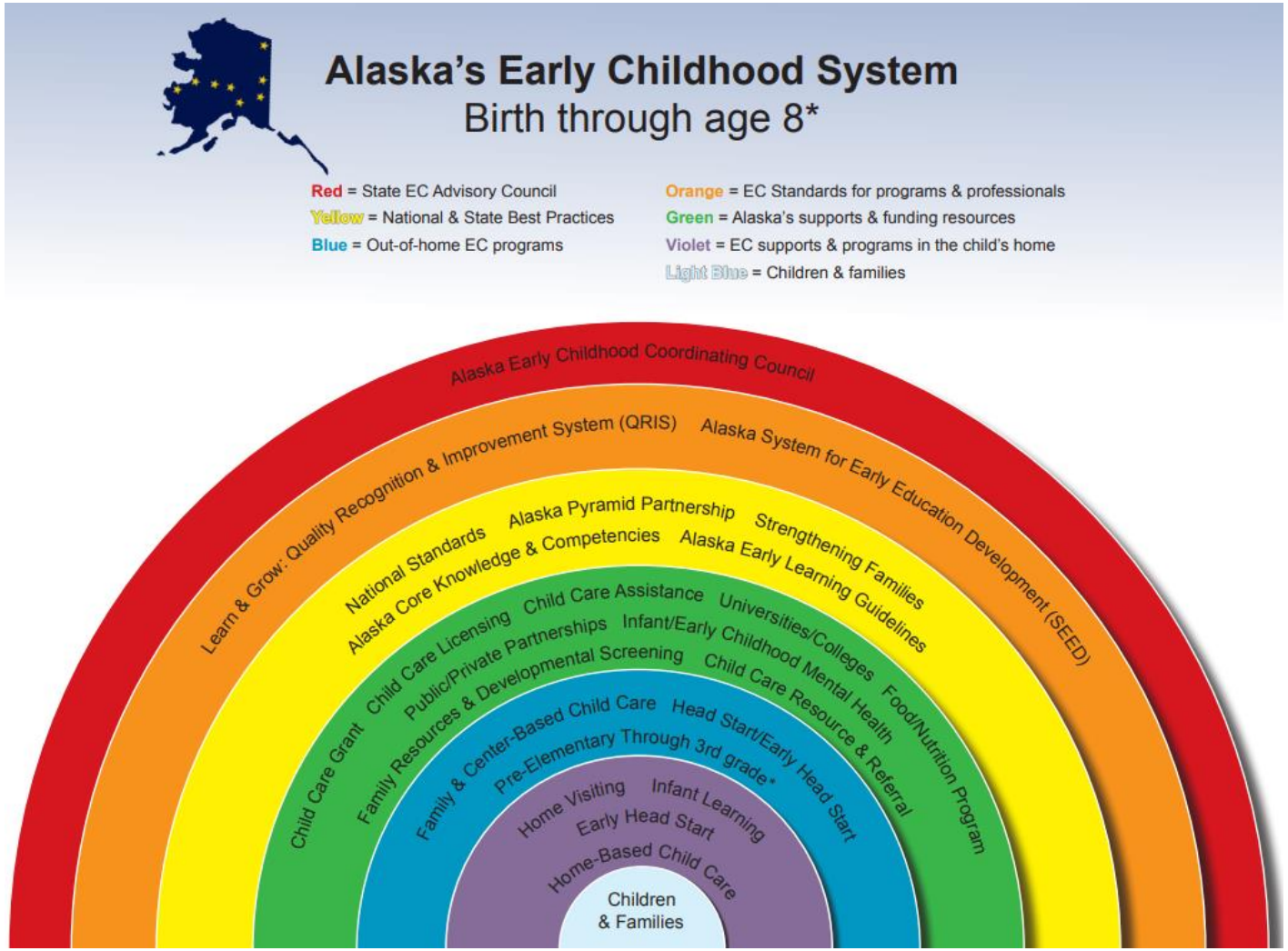
Introduction

Alaska's early childhood education landscape is driven by both federal and state policies.

Keep in mind:

- Components of the system are interdependent.
- The system has evolved to focus on quality and developmentally appropriate care.
- Financial resources are increasingly tied to quality metrics.

Alaska Early Childhood Coordinating Council



Governance and Regulatory Structures

Regulatory Structures

Federal

- Child Care and Development Fund/ Child Development Block Grant
- Office of Head Start
- Department of Defense
- Presidential Executive Order - April 2023

State

- Child Care Program Office
- AS 47.32 and 7 AAC 57 - Licensing
- AS 47.25 and 7 AAC 41 - Assistance
- The Alaska Reads Act
- DEED Pre-Elementary

Funding Streams and Mechanisms

State Child Care Assistance

1

CHILD DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

2

LEAD AGENCY (STATE OR TRIBAL)

3

FAMILY APPLIES AND IS ELIGIBLE

4

PROVIDER REIMBURSED

https://www.ffyf.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023_CCDBG-Fact-Sheet_AK.pdf

https://www.threadalaska.org/wp-content/uploads/imported_files/docs/Advocacy/Child%20Care%20Elig%20and%20Rates%202019.pdf

Federal and State Early Care and Education Funding Streams

Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five	$250 million total	$8 million to Alaska Dept of Health
Tribal Early Childhood Development	8 total grantees for FY 22-23	2 tribal governments in AK
Other Administration for Children and Families Grants	Variety of competitive and mandatory grants	Recipients include both non-profit and for-profit organizations as well as government, educational, and public housing groups
Alaska Child Care Grant Program	Specific to licenses providers in the state	Intended to be spent on activities that increase quality of care.
Quality Initiative program (thread)	Topic specific professional development for early educators	Awards range from $1,000 to $10,000
Alaska IN!	State program that provides additional funding for inclusive child care programs	offers supplemental funding to providers for training, needed accommodations, and support to help them meet the child's individual needs

Child Development and Family Support Resources

RurAL CAP
Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

act
alaska children's trust

BEST BEGINNINGS
Alaska's Early Childhood Investment

thread
connecting early care & education to alaska

naeyc
National Association for the Education of Young Children

aaeyc
Anchorage Association for the Education of Young Children

seaaeyc

Existing support organizations and resources

ALL ALASKA PEDIATRIC PARTNERSHIP

parents as teachers
BLUE RIBBON AFFILIATE

FIRST FIVE YEARS FUND

Efforts to Increase Quality and Professionalism in Child Care

ALASKA SEED CAREER LADDER

For Early Childhood (EC) and/or School-Age (SA) Education Professionals:
Working in child care facilities, including military and tribal child care; school district pre-K and elementary school classrooms (K-3); Head Start/Early Head Start Programs, school-age only programs; in-home visiting; or Early Childhood degree-seeking students

LEVEL	EC or SA related Training or Higher Education Pathways
1	Working or learning in the early childhood and/or school-age education profession
2	24 hours SEED-approved training*
3	40 hours SEED-approved training* **OR** 1 SEED EC related field** credit
4	80 hours of SEED-approved training* **OR** 2 SEED EC related field** credits
5	120 hours of SEED-approved training* **OR** 3 SEED EC related field** credits
6	6 SEED EC related field** credits[1]
7	12 SEED EC related field** credits[1]
8	Associate Degree in unrelated field with 12 SEED EC related field** credits **OR** 24 SEED EC related field** credits[1]
9	Associate Degree in EC or related field **OR** Bachelor's Degree in unrelated field with 12 SEED EC related field** credits
10	Bachelor's Degree in EC or related field **OR** Bachelor's Degree in unrelated field with 30 SEED EC related field** credits
11	Master's Degree in EC or related field **OR** Master's Degree in unrelated field with 30 SEED EC related field** credits
12	Doctorate in EC or related field **OR** Doctorate in unrelated field with 30 SEED EC related field** credits

*MUST BE 16 YEARS OLD AND WORKING OR LEARNING IN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD AND/OR SCHOOL-AGE EDUCATION PROFESSION
**FOR SEED EC RELATED FIELDS PLEASE SEE BACK PAGE
[1]LEVEL 6 - 8, SEE BACK PAGE FOR CREDENTIALS

Alaska SEED (System for Early Education Development)

Learn & Grow-Alaska's Quality Recognition and Improvement System

Alaska's future depends on the health and well-being of our youngest children. We know good health, positive experiences, and nurturing relationships create a strong foundation for lifelong learning. We also know a child's brain develops more rapidly in the first few years of life than at any other time. The foundation built in early childhood impacts later health and well-being as well as success in school, the workforce, and in life.

Alaska Early Learning Guidelines

Thank you