



SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

University of Alaska Fairbanks

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To: Fairbanks North Star Borough School District School Board

From: Steve Atwater, Interim Dean 

Re: UAF School of Education Update

I. Symbiotic Relationship. The relationship between the School of Education and the FNSBSD is strong and symbiotic. The SOE interns spend a full year in a school(s), the vast majority of these are in FNSBSD schools. The interns' mentor teachers are invited to take a course (SOE pays the tuition) that helps guide their mentorship. The District has the benefit of working with the interns and in turn, hires many of them. The UAF SOE thanks the FNSBSD for this good relationship and very much appreciates the willingness of several District staff to help with the internship process. As a part of our continuous improvement process Melanie Hadaway will be meeting with our program chairs to ensure that the SOE is current with District initiatives and priorities.

UAF SOE Interns in FNSBSD

| Year | Elementary | Secondary |
|---------|------------|-----------|
| 2013-14 | 26 | 12 |
| 2014-15 | 18 | 17 |
| 2015-16 | 12 | 13 |
| 2016-17 | 17 | 18 |

II. Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development requires the UAF SOE to meet the CAEP Accreditation Standards. This is achieved through the UAF SOE completing a self-study and then CAEP personnel conducting a site review. The five CAEP Standards are based on a continuous improvement model and include standard 4 that requires the SOE to demonstrate the impact of its completers on P-12 student learning and development, classroom instruction, and schools and the satisfaction of its completers with the relevance and effectiveness of their preparation. We are working with District Administration on how best to obtain this information and appreciate the District's collaboration that will lead to program improvement.

III. Urban Growth Opportunity. The K-12 Outreach Office that is housed in the UAF School of Education supports the Alaska Statewide Mentoring Project. A federal Investment in Innovations grant supports ASMP activity in five larger districts including

FNSBSD. FNSBSD has benefitted from this activity with support for close to 100 District early career teachers (ECTs). This year, 15 ECTs are receiving mentoring support. Unfortunately, this grant will end in June; we are thus, pursuing new funding sources. We are also in conversation with district administration on how ASMP can support the District's early career teachers.

IV. Future Educators of Alaska. The FEA program is also housed in the School of Education. FEA is a grant-funded program that encourages high school students to pursue teaching. FEA will be shifting to be a part of Educators Rising (formerly Future Teachers for America) that is a national effort to recruit high school students to the teaching profession. Once in place, the office will provide outreach to the District to explain how local chapters of Educators Rising can be established at the Fairbanks high schools. Also of note is that education is now an approved career pathway for the expenditure of Carl Perkins funds.

V. Strategic Pathways. At its September meeting the Board of Regents approved UA President Johnsen's direction for teacher education that includes one school of education with one dean and the elimination of the bachelors route for initial teacher licensure. That is, students would need to earn a bachelors degree and then pursue licensure through a graduate licensure program or degree. The Regents will be asked to approve an implementation plan for this direction at their November meeting.