

QUESTIONS TO ASK CANDIDATES

30th
 out of 50 states for overall health of children



1

Unfortunately, Alaska has some of the highest percentages of uninsured children in the country. How will you support efforts to ensure that all children in Alaska have access to health care and to minimize the number of kids without insurance?

How can Alaska build and sustain a strong behavioral health system so that young people have what they need to mental health, find confidence, and become healthy young adults?

2

3

Alaska is currently ranked 30th in overall Health, according to the 2020 Kid's Count report. What are some suggestions you'll put into action if you're elected to improve Alaska's ranking and improve the health of Alaskan children?

For more information visit: <https://www.alaskachildrenstrust.org/voteforkids>

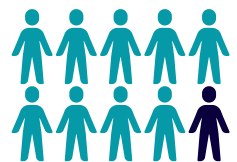
HEALTH



QUICK FACTS

9% OF ALASKANS BIRTH TO AGE 18 LACK HEALTH INSURANCE

Though this rate has declined since 2012 (from 14%), there are still some regions of Alaska with extremely high rates of children and youth who don't have health insurance. (2019)



PRE-PANDEMIC, 38% OF ALASKA HIGH SCHOOLS STUDENTS FELT SAD OR HOPELESS EVERYDAY

Alaska's students are experiencing increasing levels of sadness and hopelessness, a trend seen across all regions of the state.

25%
(2009)



38%
(2019)

% OF ALASKAN TEENS USING DIFFERENT SUBSTANCES IN THE PAST MONTH (2017)



Learn more:



QUESTIONS TO ASK CANDIDATES

49th

out of 50 states for education



1 Alaska is currently ranked 49th in Education, according to the 2020 Kid's Count report. What would you do to improve our education outcomes for all children in Alaska?

What do you believe schools should do to better prepare students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in higher education, work and life?

3 How will you improve working conditions for Alaska's educators?

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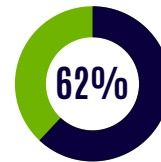
EDUCATION



QUICK FACTS

62% OF YOUNG ALASKA CHILDREN (AGES 3 & 4) ARE NOT IN SCHOOL

High-quality preschool programs set the stage for future skill development, learning, well being, and future success. (2016-2018)



ONLY 32% (LESS THAN 1 IN 3) ALASKA CHILDREN ARE KINDERGARTEN-READY

Statewide from 2016-2019, less than 1 in 3 students met 11 of 13 skills indicating they were ready for kindergarten, meaning that over 66% of Alaska children were not adequately prepared. Pandemic impacts may only exacerbate these numbers, making Pre-K access more important than ever.

75% OF 4TH GRADERS scored below proficient in READING

71% OF 8TH GRADERS scored below proficient in MATH



Learn more:



QUESTIONS TO ASK CANDIDATES

34th
 out of 50 states for economic well-being



1

There are many families in Alaska who work full time, but cannot make ends meet. If elected, what steps will you take to address the needs of Alaska's children and working families struggling to make ends meet?

According to the national Kids Count Data, Alaska has a child poverty rate of 14%. What programs would you support to help children and families cope with the impacts of financial stress?

2

3

What is your stance on financing for social safety net programs that help poor children consume nutritious food, see a doctor, and find a place to live?

For more information visit: <https://www.alaskachildrenstrust.org/voteforkids>

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

QUICK FACTS

14% OF ALASKAN CHILDREN LIVE IN POVERTY

Children under age 5 are 50% more likely to live below the poverty line than those 12- 17 years old. (2018)



17% OF ALASKAN FAMILIES REPORT THEY ARE STRUGGLING TO PAY RENT

Reported only slight / no confidence in paying rent on time (Fall 2020)

3,576 ALASKA PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS IN THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR

- 2-3% of Alaska students in every grade from Pre-K - 11th
- 5-6% of of Alaska 12th graders



18% OF ALASKAN MOTHERS OF 3-YEAR-OLDS REPORT CHILDCARE IMPACTS

Mothers reported that childcare needs impacted someone in their family taking, quitting, or changing jobs in the past 6 months (2017)

Learn more:



QUESTIONS TO ASK CANDIDATES

19th

out of 50 states for family and community



1

Candidate come to your door: In Alaska, the average cost of daycare is over \$12,000 per year, or nearly \$1,000 per month per kid, which is higher than the cost of state college tuition. What measures would you recommend to increase low-income families' access to and cost of childcare?

Children and families benefit from afterschool programs because they provide a secure environment for learning and socialization after school hours. How will you collaborate with your community partners and local schools to increase access to high-quality afterschool and summer programs in Alaska?

2

3

There is a clear connection between student health and academic achievement: when students are healthy, they learn more effectively. What problems do you perceive with today's school-based health and mental health programs, and how would you go about fixing them?

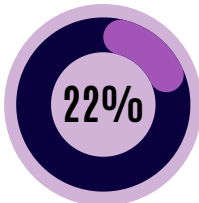
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QUICK FACTS



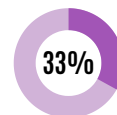
57% OF ALASKA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Afterschool activities promote family economic stability by allowing parents to work outside of school hours. Programs also support healthy social, emotional, and academic development while reducing youth engagement in risky behaviors. (2019)

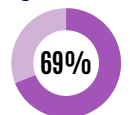


22% OF ALASKA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS PLANNED A SUICIDE ATTEMPT IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS (2019)

Since 2007, suicidal ideation has increased significantly:



male students



female students

3,139 CHILDREN EXPERIENCED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT IN 2019 ALONE

This hurts the health and quality of life of the individual, the family, and the community, and costs the state over \$300,200 per case. Children ages 0-4 comprise the largest proportion of total child maltreatment cases.

ALASKA'S FOSTER CARE RATE IS 150% HIGHER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE



15 out of 1,000 children are in foster care (2018)

Learn more:

