

# Alaska Career Guide Demonstration Project State Board of Education

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

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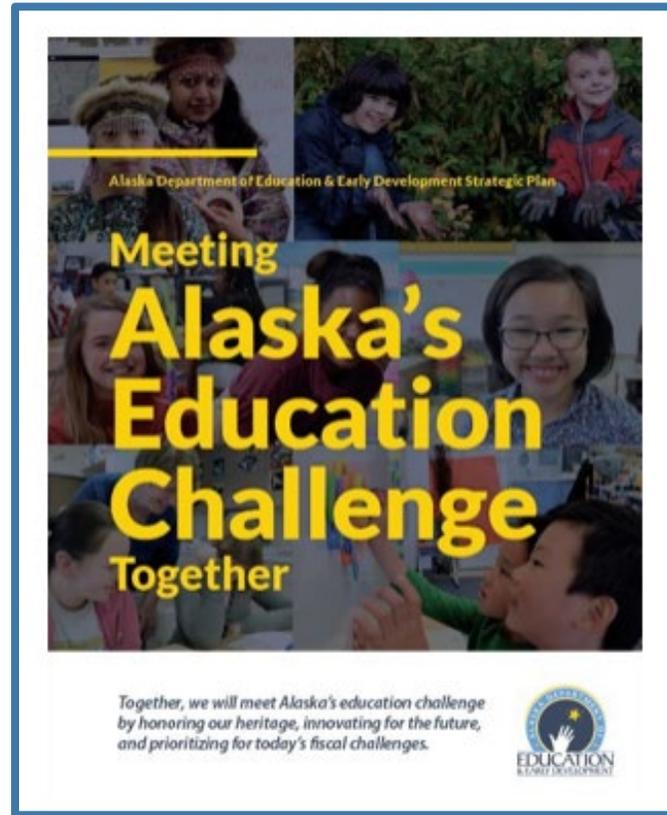
March 10, 2026



# Mission, Vision, and Purpose

Mission	Vision	Purpose
<p>An excellent education for every student every day.</p>	<p>All students will succeed in their education and work, shape worthwhile and satisfying lives for themselves, exemplify the best values of society, and be effective in improving the character and quality of the world about them.</p> <p>- Alaska Statute 14.03.015</p>	<p>DEED exists to provide <b>information, resources, and leadership</b> to support an excellent education for every student every day.</p>

# Alaska's Education Challenge



## Five Shared Strategic Priorities:

1. Support all students to read at grade level by the end of third grade.
2. Increase career, technical, and culturally relevant education to meet student and workforce needs.
3. Close the achievement gap by ensuring equitable educational rigor and resources.
4. Prepare, attract, and retain effective education professionals.
5. Improve the safety and well-being of students through school partnerships with families, communities, and tribes.

# Agenda

The Alaska Career Guide Model

Core Components of the RootEd Model

Leveraging Existing State Resources

Career Guide Staffing Model

Alaska Career Guide Partners

FY2025 Year 1 Survey Results

FAFSA Completion: National Context and Alaska Impact

2025 rootEd AK Students by Pathway

- Postsecondary Choices and Workforce Alignment
- Top College Majors
- Top Career Training Programs
- Barriers to Pathway Selection

Opportunities for Growth

Pilot Expansion: FY2026 Participants & FY2027 Potential Participants

# Alaska Workforce Opportunity: Importing Labor, Exporting Wealth



**23%**

**OF ALASKA WORKERS  
ARE NON-RESIDENTS**

**\$3.8**

**BILLION IN WAGES LEAVES  
THE STATE ANNUALLY**  
*(17% OF EVERY DOLLAR EARNED)*

# The Alaska Career Guide Model

- The Alaska Career Guide model ensures that every participating senior graduates with a clear, actionable postsecondary plan.
- Partnered with rootEd Alliance, a philanthropic organization focused on supporting rural high school seniors. Alaska was the fifth state to join the alliance.



# The Alaska Career Guide Model

The model is a structured advising framework designed to ensure every senior transitions from high school into a defined postsecondary pathway.



**WORKFORCE**



**MILITARY**



**CAREER TRAINING &  
APPRENTICESHIPS**



**TWO-YEAR COLLEGE**



**FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE**

# Core Components of the RootEd Model

## Structured Senior Advising Cycle

Minimum of two one-on-one meetings throughout the senior year.



## Postsecondary Application Support

Hands on support for college, training, apprenticeship, military, and job applications.



## Dedicated Career Guides

Each senior is supported by a trained guide and team working together to track progress and ensure a clear plan.

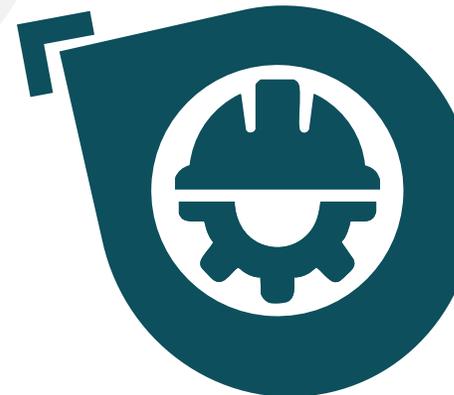
## Financial Aid Navigation

FAFSA\* completion, Alaska Performance Scholarship, and scholarship guidance.



## Career Exposure

Connections to employers, training providers, and regional opportunities.



# Career Guide Project Coordination

## *DEED Contracted Project Coordinator*

The Department provides centralized coordination to ensure strong implementation and long-term scalability of the Alaska Career Guide Model.

### Implementation & Fidelity

Ensure implementation fidelity to the rootEd advising model

Serve as liaison with rootEd Alliance and all Alaska partners

### Training & Support

Provide mentoring and training for new Career Guides

Coordinate monthly professional development sessions

Lead planning and execution of the annual statewide convening

### Monitoring & Continuous Improvement

Ongoing progress monitoring across participating districts

Development of reporting tools, data summaries, and presentation materials

### Outreach & Expansion

Support expansion into additional districts

Lead project outreach and stakeholder engagement

# Leveraging Existing State Resources

The Career Guide model aligns and activates existing state systems to support senior transition planning. This model ensures students actively use state resources during senior year rather than encountering them after graduation.



## Department of Labor and Workforce Development

- Monthly student Lunch & Learn sessions highlighting postsecondary & workforce pathways
- AlaskaJobs system for resume development, interview preparation, and job search
- Continued access to employment tools after graduation



## Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

- Alaska Career Information System (AKCIS) career exploration platform
- Alaska Performance Scholarship guidance
- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) completion support and financial aid navigation



## Department of Education and Early Development

- Connecting existing K-12 Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs to post-secondary opportunities
- Statewide professional development support
- Data tracking and Key Performance Indicator (KPI) monitoring
- Dedicated CTE funding to support implementation of the model

# Who Can Serve as a Career Guide

The model is flexible and locally driven. Career Guides may be:



## SCHOOL DISTRICT

Certificated/Non-Certificated



## SCHOOL DISTRICT CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

Certificated/Non-Certificated



## PARTNER ORGANIZATION

Tribal Entity



## STATE AGENCY

Department of Labor & Workforce Development

# Alaska Career Guide Partners *FY2026*

8

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

20

SCHOOLS

208

SENIORS

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## **Bristol Bay Regional Career and Technical Consortium (BBRCTE)**

Bristol Bay Borough School District  
Dillingham City Schools  
Lake and Peninsula School District  
Southwest Region School District

## **Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD)**

Galena City School District  
Nenana City School District

## **Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI)**

Annette Island City Schools  
Hydaburg City Schools

# FY2025 Year 1 Survey Results

Overall satisfaction across stakeholders was strong in Year 1 implementation:

**85%**

of participating students reported being satisfied with their Career Guide.

**100%**

of Career Guides reported feeling valued and supported within the model.

**94%**

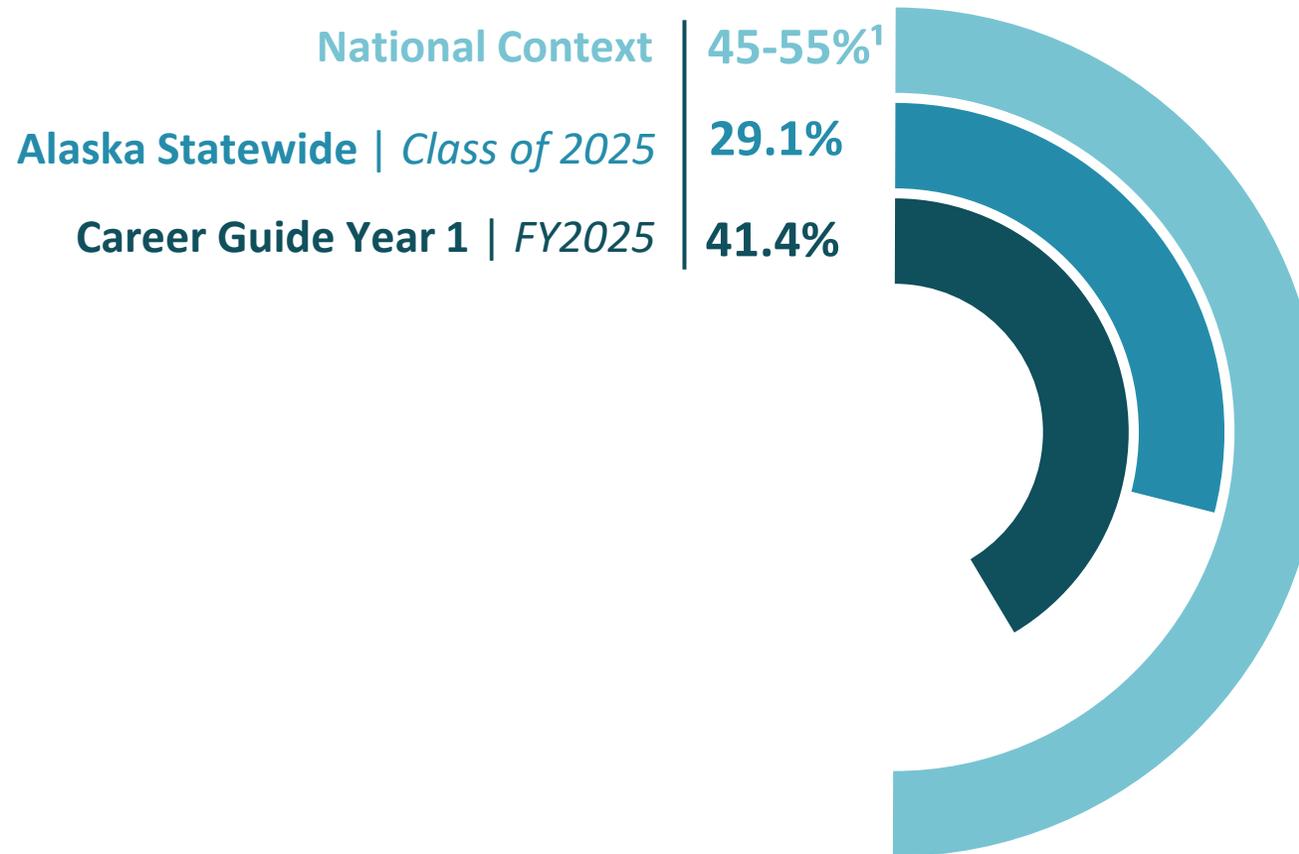
of administrators/counselors reported satisfaction with the Career Guide's work.

These results indicate strong acceptance of the model at the student, advisor, and school leadership levels during the first year of implementation.

# Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

The FAFSA is the required application for federal financial aid, state financial aid (including the Alaska Performance Scholarship), and most institutional aid. Completion is a critical early milestone in postsecondary planning.

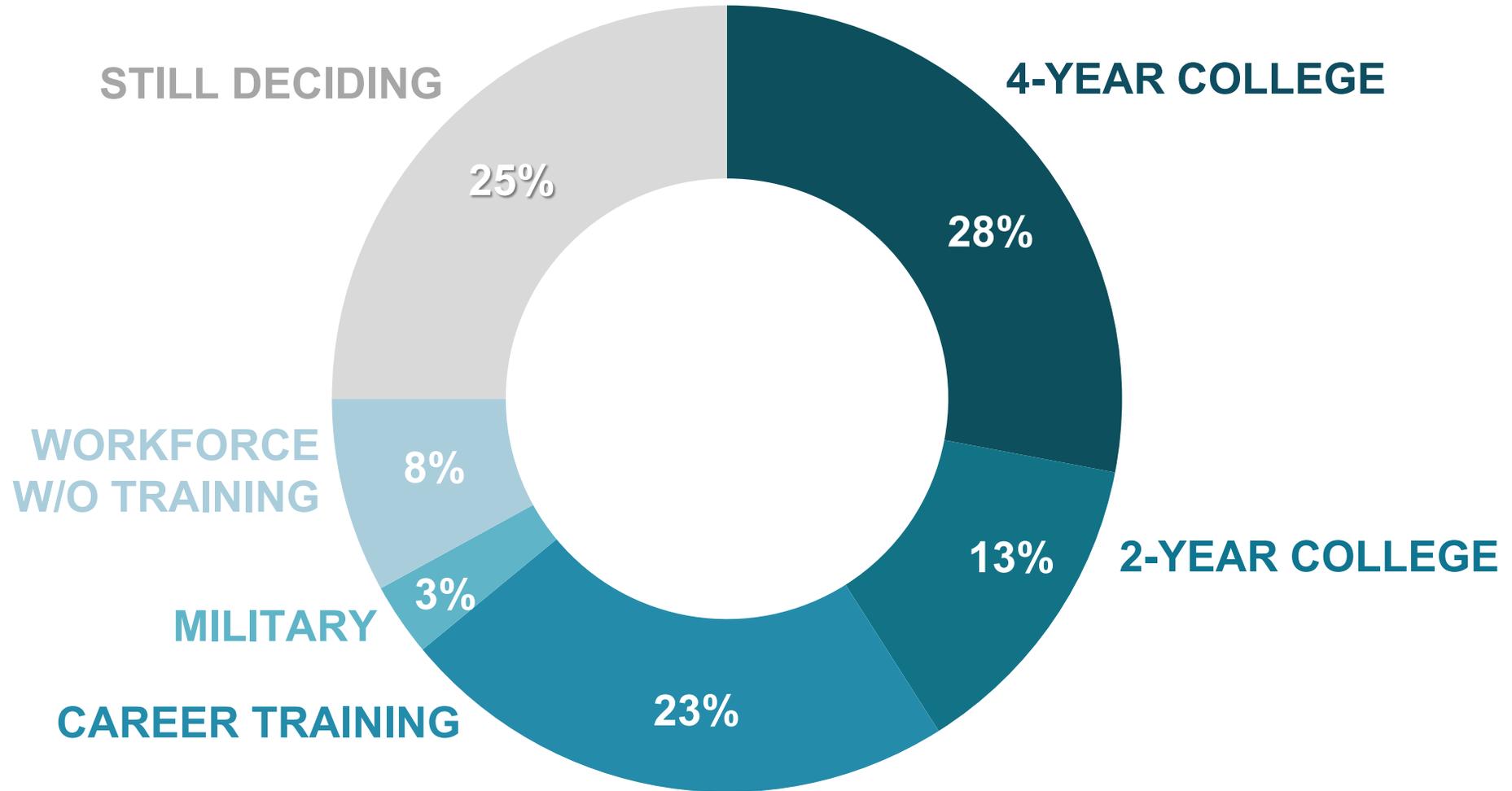
## FASFA COMPLETION RATE



**+12%**

**Increase compared to the statewide rate.**

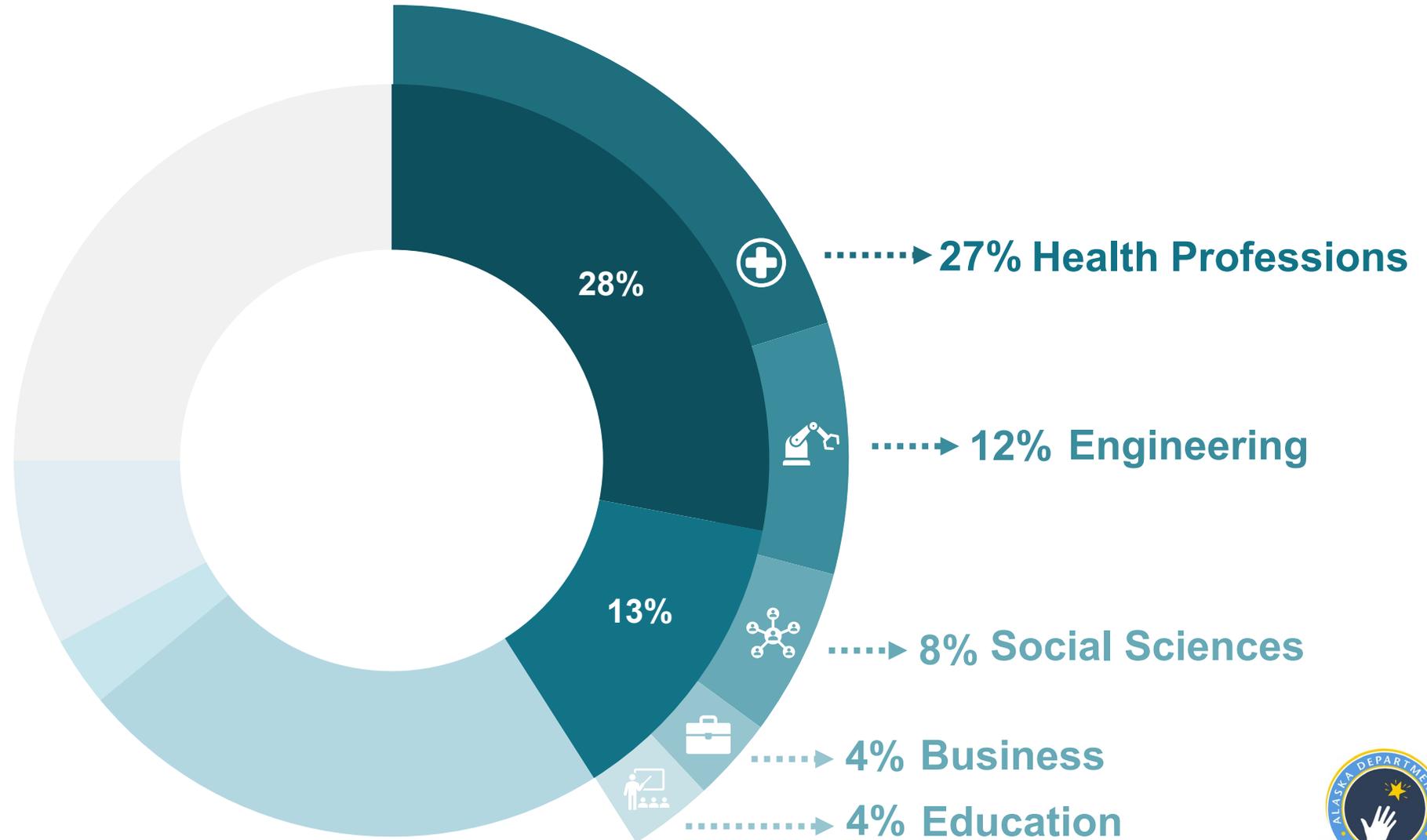
# 2025 rootEd AK Students by Pathway



*67% of rootEd Alaska students are planning to pursue further training (college, career training, or military).*

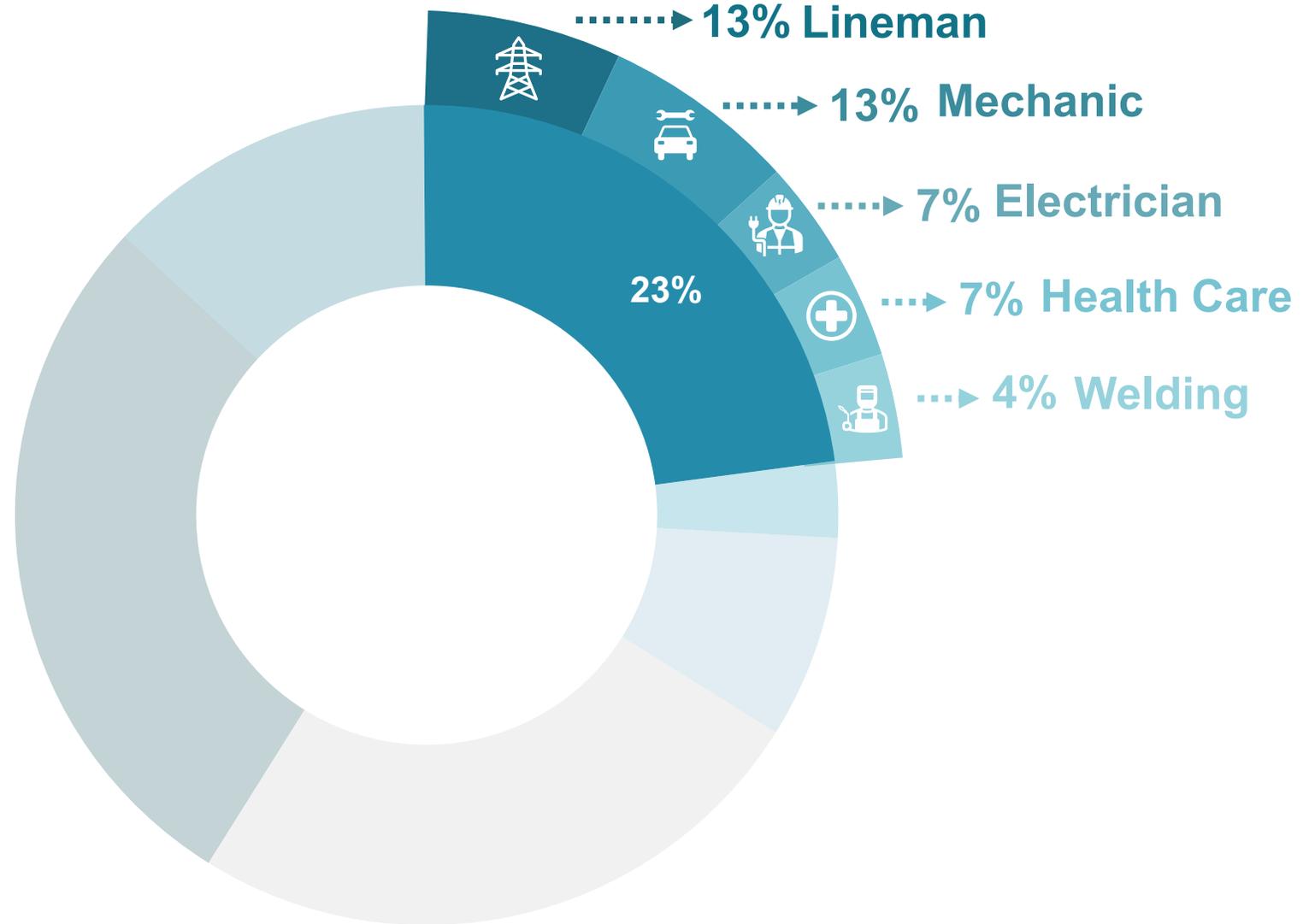
# 2025 rootEd AK Students by Pathway

## TOP 5 COLLEGE MAJORS (2- AND 4- YEAR)

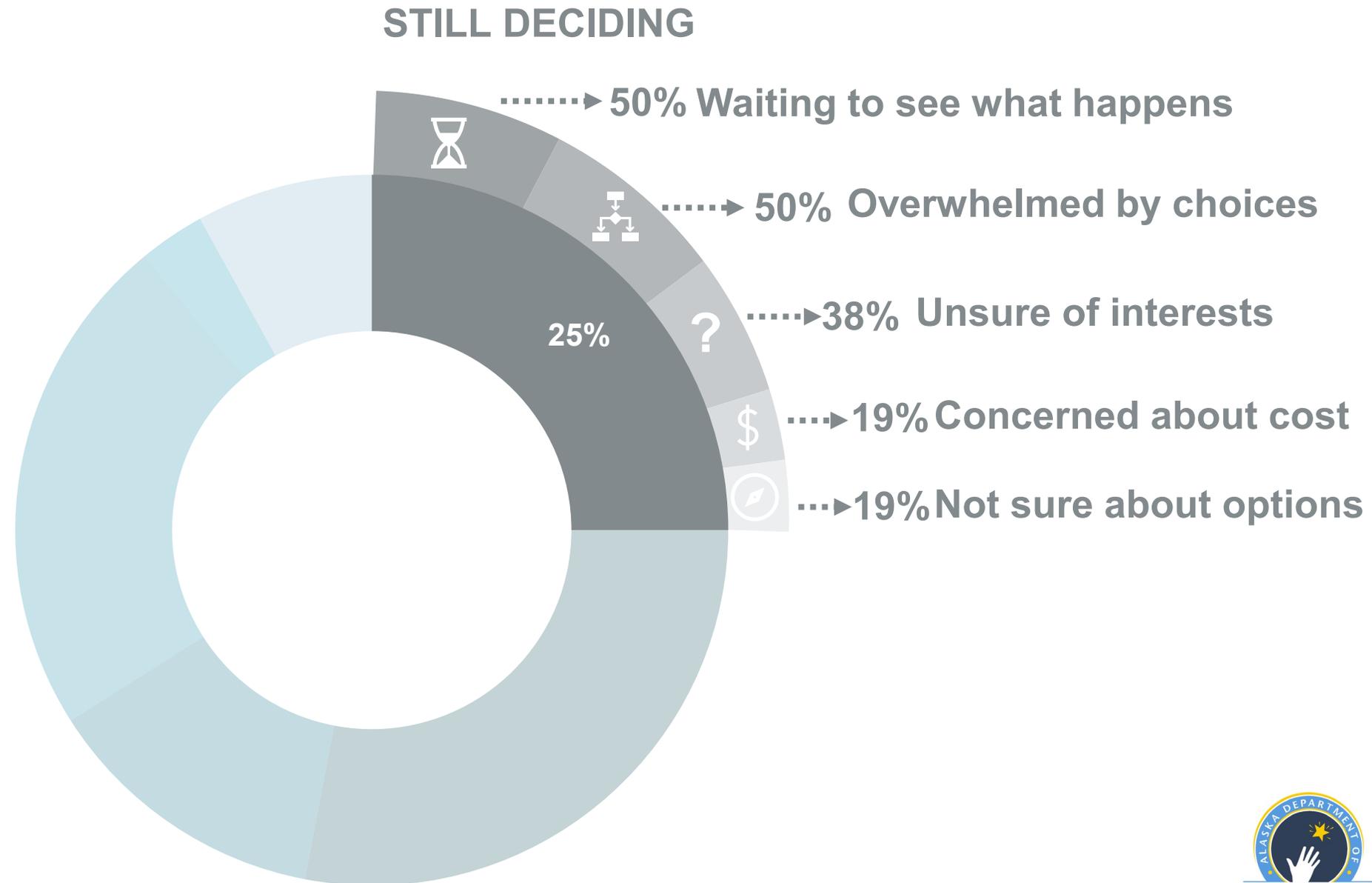


# 2025 rootEd AK Students by Pathway

## CAREER TRAINING PROGRAMS



# Barriers to Pathway Selection



# Opportunities for Growth



## ***Strengthen Support for Workforce-Bound Students***

Advisors need more tools and strategies to guide students entering the workforce directly - especially to help connect them with living-wage career opportunities.



## ***Expand Resources for Still Deciding Students***

There is a clear need for targeted advising and materials to help undecided students explore viable postsecondary options and make informed decisions.



## ***Deepen Impact of Career Exposure Opportunities***

Advisors need additional support to deepen and expand the impact of Career Exposure offerings, increase awareness of best practices across regions, and receive guidance on partnership development.



## ***Improve Communications with Stakeholders***

Feedback from administrators highlights an opportunity to strengthen how the program's goals, successes, and supports are communicated to both internal and external audiences.

# Pilot Expansion | *FY26 Participants & FY27 Potential Participants*

## FY2026 Participants

Annette Island City  
Bristol Bay  
Dillingham City  
Galena City  
Hydaburg City  
Lake and Peninsula  
Nenana City  
Southwest Region

## FY2027 Potential Participants

Alaska Gateway  
Chatham  
Copper River  
Delta/Greely  
Haines Borough  
Hoonah City  
Juneau  
Kake City  
Ketchikan Gateway  
Klawock City  
Mt. Edgecumbe High School  
Pelican City  
Petersburg  
Sitka  
Skagway  
**Southeast Island** – Starting Spring 2026  
Wrangell  
Yakutat

*The model is  
designed for  
scalability.*

# Board Questions or Comments



# Contact Information

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# Stay Connected

## Find us online:

- Our website: [education.alaska.gov](http://education.alaska.gov)
- Facebook and Twitter: @AlaskaDEED

## Give us a ring:

- Main line: 907 465 2800
- Teacher Certification: 907 465 2831