

Dr. Michael Johnson
Commissioner



Department of Education
and Early Development

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STATE OF ALASKA

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New Trauma-Engaged Resource Available for Alaska Schools

JUNEAU -- The Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) and the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB) are pleased to jointly announce the release of a new resource for Alaska schools entitled ["Transforming Schools: A Framework for Trauma-Engaged Practice in Alaska"](#). This innovative framework provides schools with a detailed roadmap illuminating the steps that can be taken to better address students' needs.

"Transforming Schools: A Framework for Trauma-Engaged Practice in Alaska" was developed in response to requests from concerned Alaskans across the state who were witnessing the impact childhood trauma has on school-aged youth.

"In Alaska, one in two students in kindergarten have already experienced one or more adverse childhood experiences (major life stressors and/or traumatic events) that can negatively impact their behavior and ability to learn," said Alaska Education Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson. "Resources like this framework can help students fully benefit from educational opportunities. This tool is an important step in advancing the state's goal of improving the safety and well-being of students through school partnerships with families, communities, and tribes."

The framework fuses lessons learned by school staff and community members in Alaska, with nationally recognized trauma-engaged approaches, to improve academic outcomes and well-being for all students. Using stories, research, and best practices, this resource is designed for use by school and/or community teams seeking to make schools a place of significant learning for each student.

The framework is the product of a collaborative project involving DEED, First Alaskans Institute, the Alaska Afterschool Network, the Alaska Mental Health Board, the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, the Alaska Child Trauma Center, and AASB's Initiative for Community Engagement. Moreover, its content captures the input and feedback of more than 200 community members, school board members, school staff, counselors, nurses, and administrators from across the state.

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