

# Request for Information



State of Alaska  
Department of Education & Early Development  
Division of Finance & Support Services  
PO Box 110500  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0500

**Date Issued: March 28, 2023**

## STATEWIDE ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

### **Introduction:**

The Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) is seeking a vendor to assist the department in the development of a statewide alternative teacher preparation program that would meet the requirements of a registered apprenticeship program. This project will take several months to provide adequate time for participation from all stakeholders that include universities, multiple education organizations, school districts, other state government agencies, Alaska Native Tribal groups, and other potential participants. The desired outcome is a written comprehensive framework and implementation plan outlining the roles and responsibilities of the department, participating districts, educator preparation providers, other stakeholders, and the program participants.

### **Background Information:**

Since 2020, the State of Alaska has been working to improve teacher retention and recruitment. The first phase began with a directive by Gov. Michael Dunleavy to form a working group to identify the root causes of Alaska's teacher retention and recruitment (TRR) issues and to propose solutions to better attract and retain great teachers. The second phase included the publication of a TRR Action Plan, along with complete TRR Survey Results and additional appendices and findings. The state of Alaska is currently in the third phase – implementation.

One of the proposed implementation activities that has arisen from Alaska's teacher recruitment and retention workgroups is the development of a teacher apprenticeship program that would align to the requirements of the United States Department of Labor apprenticeship program guidelines. The State of Tennessee has implemented a similar program (<https://www.tn.gov/education/grow-your-own.html>), and Alaska is interested in exploring how a program of this type would align to Alaska teacher certification requirements, the unique cultural and geographic context of the state, and State and Federal funding requirements.

### **Project Details:**

The proposed statewide alternative teacher preparation program would:

- Identify and address the gaps in teacher preparation programs offered in Alaska,
- Address the needs of individuals with or without a bachelor's degree to meet the requirements for certification (AS 14.20.020 and 4 AAC 12.305(b)),
- Incorporate the latest research and best practices in teacher preparation,
- Align to Alaska Standards for teacher preparation program requirements (4 AAC 04.200(e)),
- Meet the requirements of the US Department of Labor (USDOL) registered apprenticeship grant program and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds,

- Effectively prepare potential Alaska educators to teach and live in Alaska's unique communities,
- Effectively prepare potential Alaska educators to understand and align instruction to Alaska's education standards,
- Allow for implementation in any Alaska school district, regardless of size and location,
- Allow for partnership with any teacher preparation program in Alaska, and possibly external partners, and
- Be sustainable with minimal DEED staff resources.

Possible services provided by the vender could consist of, but not be limited to:

- Creation of a workplan accessible by DEED and the selected vendor to track project activities throughout the life of the project,
- Provision of a report within the first three months of the project providing research and data on the current landscape of registered apprenticeship models for teacher preparation, USDOL requirements of registered apprenticeship teacher preparation programs, resources available to registered apprentices and any other peripheral benefits that registered apprentices may access if participating in this model, and other considerations that might impact the proposed apprenticeship model for Alaska,
- Scheduling and facilitation of stakeholder outreach efforts and collaborative meetings
- Creation of a framework and implementation plan for a statewide alternative teacher preparation program that would meet the requirements of a registered apprenticeship program. It could include, but not be limited to:
  - Program model requirements,
  - Potential partners,
  - Detailed costs and resource needed to support the program,
  - Recommended resources to defray costs (potential grants),
  - Pilot project recommendations, and
  - Recommendations, based on input from remote, rural Alaska districts, and potential participants on how to ensure the program would be able to meet their identified needs.

### **Minimum Prior Experience:**

DEED is seeking information from vendors with the following experience:

- Preparing teaching candidates to satisfy teacher certification requirements,
- Developing state-wide programs in collaboration with and cooperation of multiple stakeholder groups,
- Developing and/or managing a US Department of Labor approved apprenticeship program, and
- Working in unique cultural, geographic, and educational environments.

### **Summary:**

This RFI is to identify vendors that can assist in the development of a statewide alternative teacher preparation program that would meet the requirements of a registered apprenticeship program for the Department of Education and Early Development described above. Please include the following information in your response:

1. Describe which minimum prior experience qualifications you meet.
2. What experience do you have in completing similar work for state-level agencies?
3. What specific qualifications do primary staff have who will provide the services?
4. What is the methodology you propose?
5. Please provide client references.
6. What is the cost of services you propose?
7. Estimate of time to complete the project.

**Important Notice:**

This RFI does not extend any rights to prospective vendors or obligate the state to conduct a solicitation or purchase any goods or services, nor will the State be financially responsible for any costs associated with the preparation of any response for the requested information. This RFI is issued for the sole purpose of obtaining information as described in this notice. However, the information obtained from this request may be used to prepare a purchase or solicitation in the future.

**Response Information:**

Responses to this RFI are required by **April 28, 2023, prior to 3:00 p.m.** ADT. Responses must be sent by email and include the following:

- a) Name, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail of designated point of contact.
- b) Responses to each of the number items identified above in the Summary.
- c) Concise responses are preferred.

**Procurement Officer contact information:**

Kathy Blomquist

Procurement Officer

Email: [eed.procurement@alaska.gov](mailto:eed.procurement@alaska.gov)

1 (907) 465-8654

**Please note:** The State does not accept responsibility for failed U.S. mail or e-mailed response deliveries. The procurement officer will make an effort to confirm receipt of responses via email, however, it is ultimately the responsibility of the interested party to follow up with the procurement officer to ensure your response was received prior to the deadline specified above.

Questions about this RFI can be directed to Kathy Blomquist at [eed.procurement@alaska.gov](mailto:eed.procurement@alaska.gov)