



ALASKA

March 30, 2024

GCDSE 2024 Spring Council Meeting

Grant Mission and Goals

Mission is to implement an innovative model in Alaska to address and reduce challenges faced by children and youth with disabilities in preparing for the workforce.

Includes goals that focus on *inclusivity, equity, empowerment, and sustainable employment.*

Overarching project goal:

‘Increase the number of Alaska youth and other individuals with disabilities who are competitively employed through innovative and collaborative programs involving key agencies and organizations.’

Major Grant Events

- Presented at ASSEC Conference with all partners February 7, 2024
- Held First Advisory Committee Meeting March 22, 2024

More members desired, especially students



DEED – Grant Coordination and Management

- Hiring of Program Coordinator 2 – Kerri Tanet
- Hosting bi-weekly Steering Committee meetings
- Attending monthly meetings with Rehabilitation Services Agency (RSA)
 - Finished Cooperative Agreement with RSA
 - Finalizing all MOU's with grant partners, signed on Kenai School District



Begin website development and publication

<https://education.alaska.gov/sped/difpathwaystopartnershipsgrant#:~:text=Working%20together%20with%20our%20partners,ready%20for%20life%20after%20school>



Alaska Youth Leadership Forum (YLF)

GOAL

“Improve the independent living and employment outcomes for youth in transition to adulthood.”

Completed sections of the curriculum

- CPR Instructor Training
- Supported Decision Making
- Person Centered Planning
- Financial Literacy
- Leadership Skills

Working to produce career exploration videos

Met with Kenai Alternative High School to offer YLF at least 2 days in school year

Future: Alumni Association and Youth Advisory Council creation.

First event 5/15-16: Kenai Alternative Schools host Workshop (10 Youth signed up)



Immersive Youth Aviation Academy

GOAL

Allow Alaskan youth with disabilities to explore the possibilities that careers in aviation in a hands-on immersive environment.

Development of Curriculum topics and areas

- Final and approve materials, focus ADA and Employment Rights. PIOSEE module and video expansion.
- Review website for accessibility

Finding host area for Academy

Work with Continuing education rehabilitation out of the University of Washington, they are going through the ADA trainings and age-appropriate levels

Meet with Ind Curriculum to discuss cross sectioning

Youth Emergency Management Program



GOAL

Provide youth with disabilities the foundational knowledge and skills needed to explore careers in the field of emergency management and increasing employability across a broad range of emergency management careers and building leadership capacity.

Developing/finalizing curriculum and training materials

- Purchase drone training for curriculum
- CPR Practice Dummy
- Create videos

Future: Create Person-Centered Leadership Plans and Emergency Preparedness training for youth up to age 13.

Ordering the go-bags and first aid kits, being stored for YEMP supplies

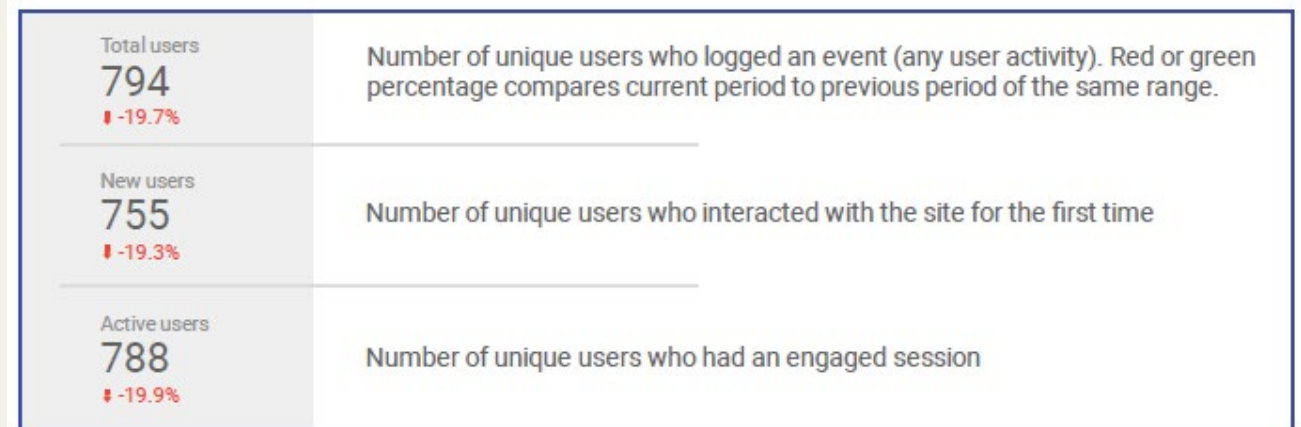
DB 101 School and Work Youth Calculator

The World Institute on Disabilities (WID) DB 101 school and work calculator expansion due to launch November 30th

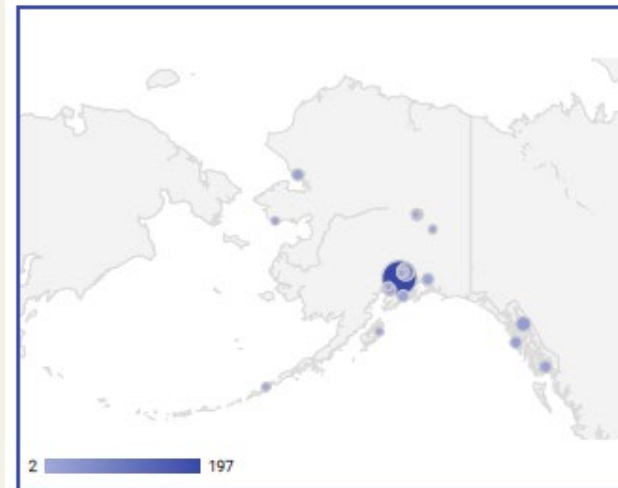
Larrisa Cummings presented DB101 at Full Lives Conference

Bi-monthly meetings with WID and CHD to outline website development and updating:

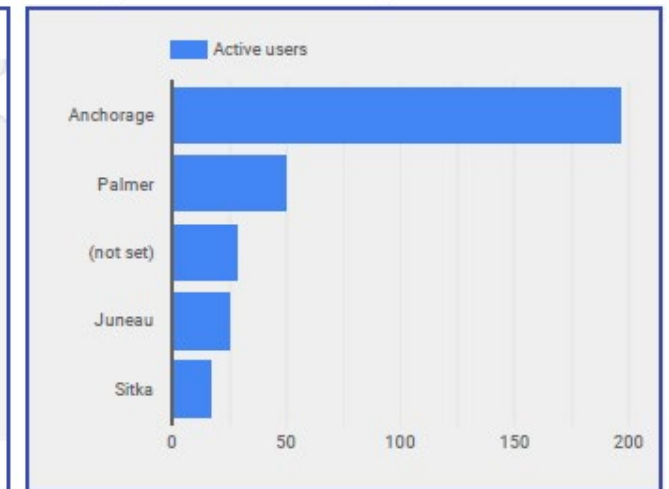
- Addition of videos (example: Welcome to DB 101)
- Additional resources tab – Employment Resources



Where In Alaska Are Users Located?



Top 5 Cities In Alaska By Number Of Users



Alaskan Indigenous Transition Skills Curriculum (AITSC) Pilot

GOAL

AITSC curriculum goals added to student Individual Education Plans (IEP's) and Transition Plans.

Four Schools Identified: Grayling, Hoonah, Buckland, and Savoonga

Rain Van Den Berg and Frances Gage held meetings and trainings with teachers

- Found need to develop teacher guide/interviewing for Indigenous Artist
- Focus on transition plan component by matching subsistence and cultural skills with life skills

As of March 2024, eight transition plans have included indigenous skills based on the curriculum. Three in Grayling and five in Hoonah.



RecWORKS!

Provided Pre-Employment Transition Services for 82 youth

- Spring Break Camp, Juneau w/ 8 youth week on 3/18
- Day skiing with 11 University of Alaska Southeast students
- Pre-Employment Classes in Juneau, Ketchikan, and Sitka

Memorandums of Understanding (MOU): Established 3 MOUs with Independent Living Center, did a 3-day training with staff

- Summer Work Program on Kenai Peninsula

Added Summer Work Program to community of Gustavus; SWP also being held in Juneau, Ketchikan, Sitka, and Haines

Next Transition Camp: May 28-31, 2024 in Juneau



GOAL

Combining recreation and employment as a best practice.

A flyer for the Summer Work Program. The background is a landscape with mountains, trees, and a sun. Text on the flyer includes: 'STUDENTS WHO HAVE AN IEP OR 504 PLAN, OR WHO IDENTIFY AS HAVING A DISABILITY ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY', 'STUDENTS CAN EARN UP TO \$2400', 'SAIL Inspiring Personal Independence', 'Tots', 'JUNE 10-JULY 19 25 HOURS/WEEK', 'SUMMER WORK PROGRAM', 'A 6-WEEK PAID WORK EXPERIENCE WHERE STUDENTS LEARN VALUABLE EMPLOYMENT SKILLS. INTERESTED IN JOINING? PLEASE LET US KNOW SO WE CAN PAIR YOU WITH A BUSINESS.', 'WHO SHOULD APPLY? STUDENTS AGES 14-21 WHO ARE CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR', 'TO ENROLL YOUR STUDENT, CALL OR EMAIL ASHLEIGH', and '888.471.1332 AREED@SAILINC.ORG'.

STUDENTS WHO HAVE AN IEP OR 504 PLAN, OR WHO IDENTIFY AS HAVING A DISABILITY ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY

STUDENTS CAN EARN UP TO \$2400

SAIL Inspiring Personal Independence

Tots

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Project | SEARCH[®] Expansion

GOAL

Preparing young people with significant disabilities for success in competitive integrated employment.

Visit from Project Search Co-Founder Erin Riehle key to talking to business and school district partners about Project Search and gaining new sites





Project | SEARCH[®]

Expansion (cont.)

- Signed agreement with Kenai School District potential expansion/other interest
- Peer Power outreach plans also key to discussion of expansion efforts
- Representation of Project SEARCH and ACT at the Anchorage Academies Model workgroups





Peer Power Student Outreach

- Organize over summer with all grant partners to begin development of school presentation
- Developing contract with Council for work, and all outlined activities and outreach
- Beginning outreach to schools (Anchorage)

Thank You!

Contact Info for
Further Questions

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