

# Pre-K Program Proposal

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October 8, 2024

# Goals



1. Support AK Reads Initiatives



2. Support our teachers



3. Support our community.

# Goals

## Goal 1: Support our students with AK Reads Initiatives.

**The Alaska Reads Act emphasizes early literacy and intervention to ensure that children are on track for reading proficiency by the third grade.**

**Provisions:**

**1. Voluntary Pre-Elementary Programs:**

- The Act supports the establishment and funding of pre-elementary programs for children ages 3-5. (Grants and .5 ADM funding after 3 years)
- Programs must meet certain standards and be aligned with Alaska's Early Learning Guidelines.

**2. Coordination with School Districts:**

- School districts are encouraged to partner with existing preschools and early learning programs to provide support and resources, aiming to prepare children for kindergarten.

**3. Focus on Early Literacy:**

- Early learning programs are encouraged to incorporate evidence-based literacy instruction and screeners to monitor progress. We need to do this by year three in order to get approved for the .5 ADM)

**4. Parental Involvement:**

- The Act also underscores the role of family engagement in supporting early literacy skills before children enter kindergarten. They can take part in our parent engagement literacy activities already occurring.

**5. Professional Development for Preschool Educators:**

- As with our K-5 teachers, we would support them with the Science of Reading Professional development.

# Goals

Goal 2: Supports our current teachers with next year's incoming kindergarten students.

**Early Intervention provides the following:**

- 1. Improved Literacy Skills:** Research indicates that early literacy instruction can significantly enhance children's language, phonological awareness, print knowledge, decoding, early writing, and general literacy skills.
- 2. Long-term Academic Benefits:** Early learning experiences are linked with later school achievement, emotional and social well-being, fewer grade retentions, and reduced incidences of juvenile delinquency.
- 3. Effectiveness of Specific Interventions:** Intensive early reading interventions, particularly those focusing on explicit, systematic instruction in foundational word reading skills, have been found to result in positive outcomes for struggling readers from kindergarten through third grade.
- 4. Targeted Instruction:** Interventions that teach specific domains, such as phonological awareness and print knowledge, are likely to increase performance in those areas. Small group or one-on-one instruction can be more beneficial than larger group settings. Our Pre-K classes would be limited to 10 students per class.

# Goals

## Goal 3: Support our community with its childcare needs.

1. Would you use tuition-based preschool this school year (2024-25) if it were offered through the Sitka School District?

[More Details](#)

● Yes	43
● No	35
● Maybe	21



2. If yes, what type of preschool program would you be interested in?

[More Details](#)

● Half-day	17
● Full-day	57



# Budget Implications

1. **This is meant to be self-supporting.**
2. **Tuition based:** At least 24 families said they would pay at least 1000/month. (The way we asked the question on the survey was open ended, so we had a large variety of answers – such as \$20 and we are still reaching out to determine what that meant.)

Expense Item	Amount	Revenue Item	Amount
Average 2 Teachers Salary plus benefits	128,062	20 students X 1000/per/7 months	140,000
Curriculum and Supplies	11938		
	140,000		140,000

3. This is based off **7 months since** we are already part way through the year.
4. **This budget could change slightly**, based off teacher experience and credits, where they would be placed on the salary schedule. Benefits are also averaged since we do not know if they need single, spouse or family coverage.
5. If we went with one group of full day, and one group of half day, **we could pay the second teacher from some ventures funds to coordinate ventures, which is still a need.** This will also be determined once we have more information from parents.

# Collaboration

- 1. Head Start collaboration will continue.** Our conversations have been how do we continue to strengthen our partnership and each other program goals.
- 2. Collaboration with other preschools around town still need to occur.**
- 3. We are continuing to reach out to families to find out specifics of their needs:**
  - Ages of their students, if they are already enrolled a childcare in town, some of the specifics of what they meant with rates, etc.

# Other Considerations

- 1. Competing with Head Start and other agencies.**
  - Our MOU with Head Start and services we provide will continue.
  - The need in Sitka is larger than the current agencies can fill.
- 2. Our initial attempt will be for 4 year old or 5 years that didn't make the kindergarten cut off.**
- 3. Inequities/Equal Access:**
  - Even though it is tuition based, families can still qualify for childcare assistance (State of AK, Tribal, and Coast Guard, or other childcare assistance) and we can apply that funding to their tuition.