

ALASKA'S *Education* CHALLENGE

WHAT:

Alaska's Education Challenge is an opportunity to inspire Alaskans to implement a vision to provide an excellent education for every student.

This will happen by:

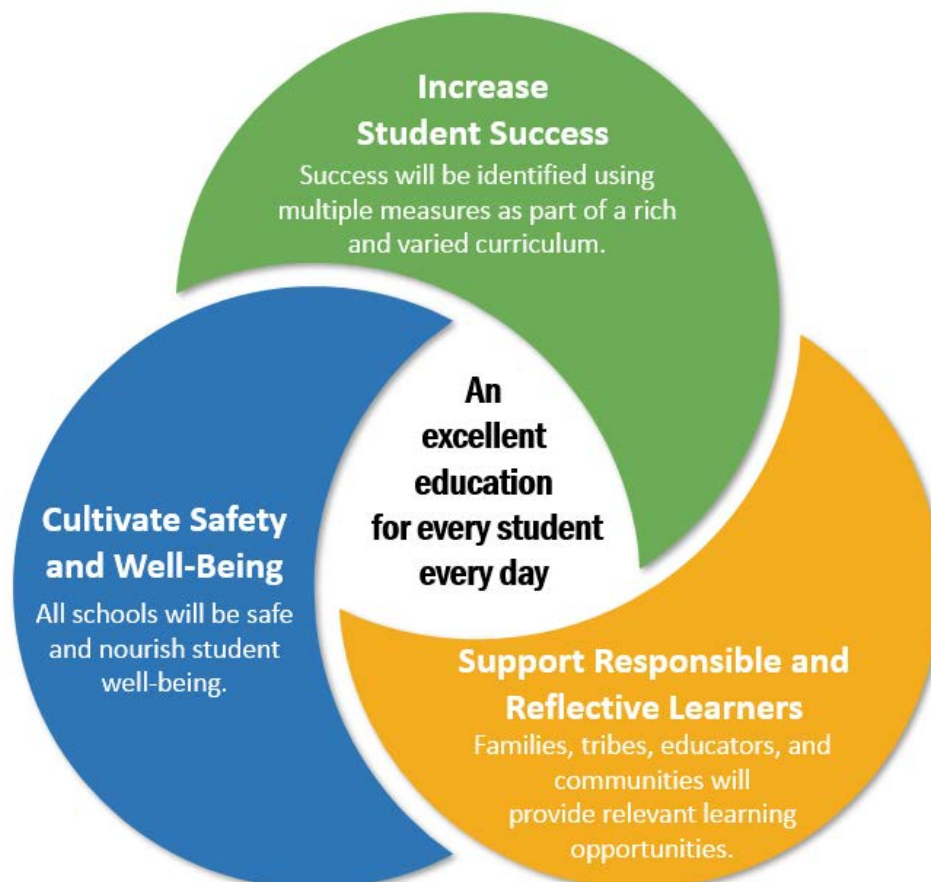
- 1) Increasing Student Success;
- 2) Cultivating Safety and Well-Being; and
- 3) Supporting Responsible and Reflective Learners.

WHY:

Our system of public education isn't working for enough of our students. We have one of the largest achievement gaps in the country between our bottom performers and our average to top performers.

Statistics:

- Alaska has ranked in the bottom tier of our country in student achievement and graduation rate for far too many years. *(NAEP results)*
- One in six students in Alaska demonstrate kindergarten readiness skills. *(ADP results)*
- Last school year the statewide teacher turnover rate was one out of every eight teachers.
- Over one quarter of our students are chronically absent from school.



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HOW:

<p>1) Increase Student Success</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify and articulate the knowledge, skills, and behavioral attributes necessary for all preschool through post- secondary students to succeed in a rapidly changing world, while valuing cultural and traditional knowledge, civic responsibility, and student interests, passions, and goals. - Ensure equity of access to high quality learning experiences for all students, preschool through post-secondary, and use a variety of culturally appropriate methods and multiple measures to identify successes, mitigate underperformance, and accelerate student achievement. - Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Accountability System
<p>2) Cultivate Safety and Well-Being</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Every Alaska school must work to create a sustainable and positive school climate that is safe, supportive, and engaging for all students, families, staff, and communities. - Alaska's schools will create a culturally humble (responsive) and safe environment that recognizes the needs of the whole child, institutes trauma informed practices, and understands the vital importance of building all relationships surrounding every child to improve resiliency, health, and academic outcomes. - To ensure the physical and mental health needs of all students in all schools are addressed, students enrolled in public education will have direct access to school nursing/health and counseling services.
<p>3) Support Responsible and Reflective Learners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make learning student-centered, ensuring that instruction and curricula are relevant, experiential, culturally responsive, and interest-based for all preschool through post-secondary students. - Create rigorous cohort-based professional learning academies based on best practices for preservice, new-to-Alaska, new-to-teaching, and career-changing educator candidates to develop Alaska-specific skills. - Grow education leadership through an educator leadership grant program. - Triple the number of National Board Certified Teachers (NBCTs) in Alaska, and specifically increase the number of NBCTs in hard- to-staff schools and districts, both through the provision of salary incentives. - Establish a systemic foundation for personalized student learning and consistent excellence. - Expedite the dollars, expertise, and other assets necessary to enable modernization. - Facilitate deep systemic collaboration and alignment to ensure effectiveness, efficiency, and innovation. - Create the option for self-governance compacting for the delivery of education between the State of Alaska and Tribes or tribally- empowered Alaska Native organizations.