



Resource Development Council Breakfast

**Dr. Kersten Johnson-Struempler,
ASD Deputy Chief of Schools**

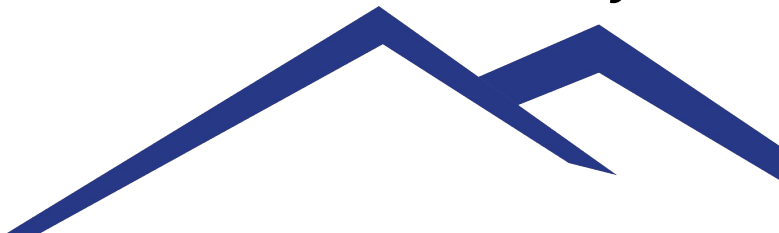
The Mission

With the Academies of Anchorage, students get more than a diploma — it is **a launchpad for life.**

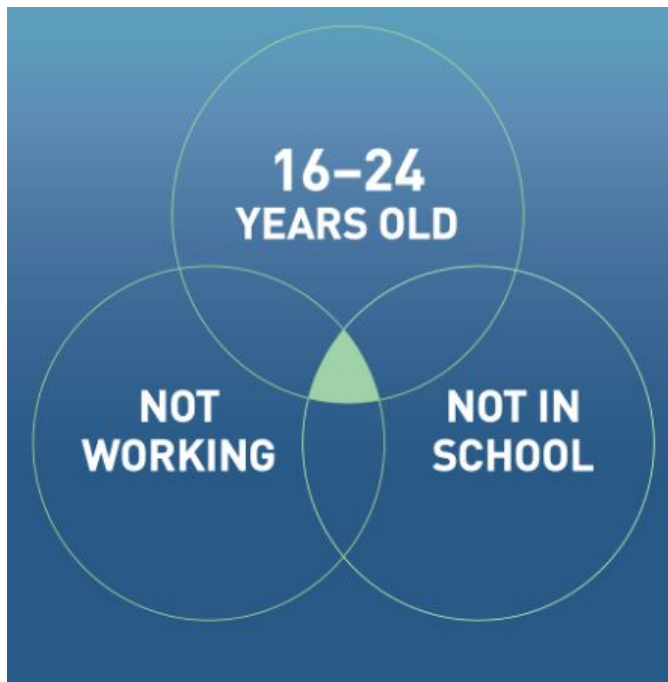
Grad Requirements +

- ✓ Career Pathways to Engage
- ✓ Community and Business Connections
- ✓ Workplace & Employability Skills

Graduating our students College, Career, and Life Ready



Disconnected Youth: not working, not in school



- **Alaska has the 4th highest rate:**
 - **15.2% of youth are not working or in school**
 - **Amounts to 13,000 Alaskans**
- **Alaska has the highest rate of female disconnection in the USA:**
 - **17.6% are not working or in school**

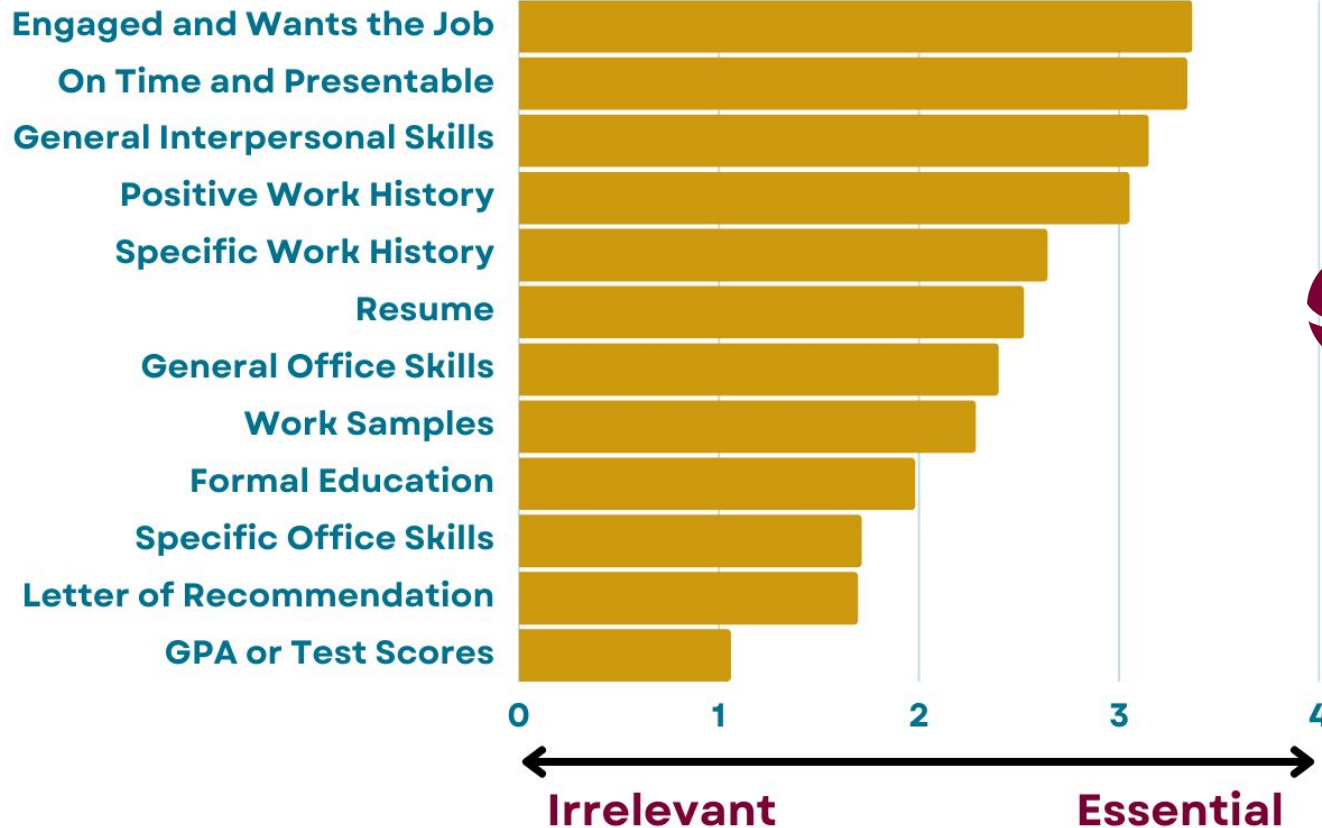
Why does ASD want to shift?

Career Readiness



- Alaska's economic future depends on a robust, innovative workforce
- We must provide educational pathways for all students that lead to **in-demand, high-wage career opportunities**

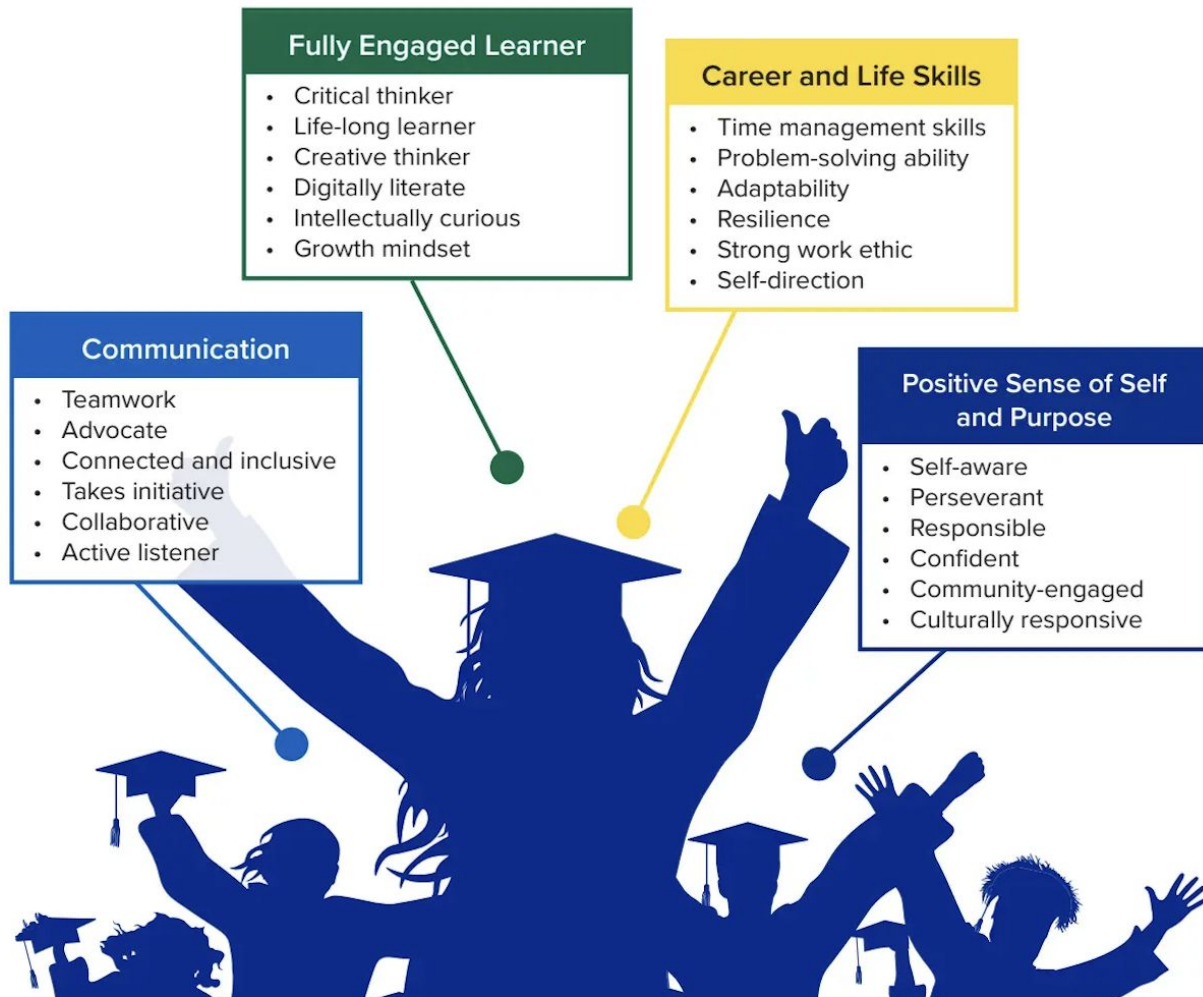
What are Anchorage Employers Looking For?



AEDC
Anchorage Economic
Development Corporation

What we believe...

“ASD students will graduate from high school ready for college, careers, and life, and prepared for success in the 21st-century workforce.”



Academies provide direct instruction for:

- Time management skills
- Work ethic and workplace responsibility
- Problem-solving, resilience, and adaptability
- Communication, teamwork, collaboration
- Career readiness & employability skills
- Financial literacy

Guaranteed Experiences

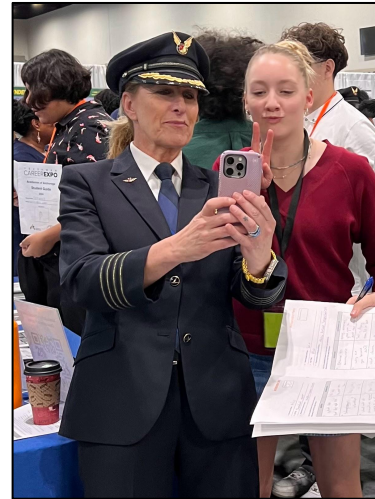


Our successes so far...



Freshman First Day

Our successes so far.. Career Expo



Each year,
**over 100
partners**
engage in
dynamic
activities
with **over
3000
students**

Our successes so far...

UAA Campus Tour
All 9th grade students



University Visits

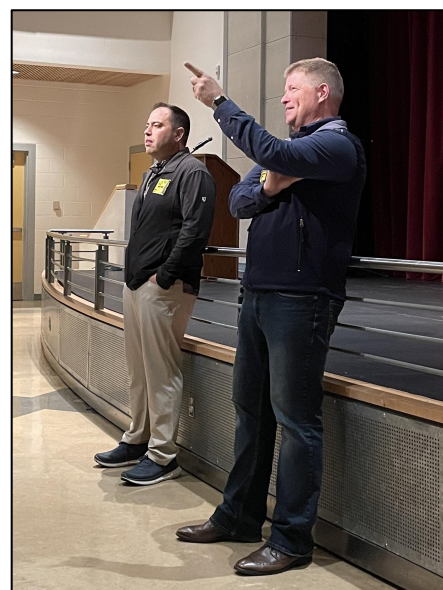
New Course: College & Career Exploration with Personal Finance

- A new, required course for freshmen
 - Employability Skills
- Career Exploration
 - All students plan for a career (Enroll, Enlist, or Employ)
 - You have to **see** it to **be** it
- Personal Finance & Financial Literacy

Industry Partnerships and Work-Based Learning



Our successes so far..



Our successes so far...



Speed Mentoring Event



Industry Touchpoints

Intentional connections between students & employers



Experiences with Industry Partners:

- Skills USA
 - Workforce development for students
- HOSA
 - Future Health Professionals
- FFA National
 - Natural Resources
- Alaska Construction Career Day
- Women in Construction
- Alaska Works Apprenticeship Expo
- Alaska Resource Education



Externship Experiences





CTE Pathway Growth Plans 2025-2026

- Health Science
- Construction Tech
- Industrial Technology
- Metal Fabrication
- Computer Science
- Culinary Hospitality
- Multimedia Marketing and Design
- Business
- Natural Resources & Environmental Management
- Biomedical Science
- Engineering
- Engineering Tech
- Education
- Mechatronics

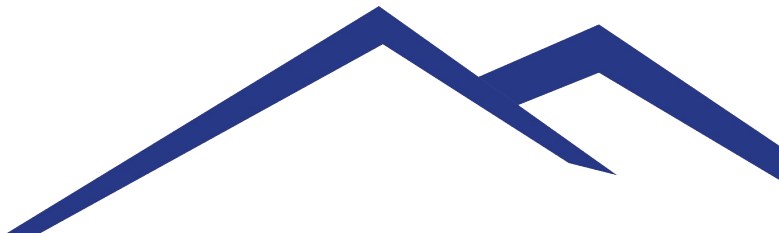
PBL: Project Based Learning is a teaching method in which students learn by actively engaging in meaningful, real-world projects

Headwinds

- Teacher shortages and education budget issues
- Loss of grant funding
 - Our federal grant was **defunded** in September 2025
- Momentum stalling in some areas

Break the cycle

- Old approach:
 - Attempt-Attack-Abandon
- New approach:
 - Engage-Adjust-Achieve



Vision for the Future

Academies create **intentional structures** for students to:

- Learn about careers
- Participate in job shadowing
- Start an internship or apprenticeship
- Earn industry certifications
- Earn dual college credit
- Explore opportunities in Alaska

Pillars of Support



Role of the Academy Coaches

Academy Coaches **connect with every student** in the school

The Academy Coach is:

- a **connector of experiences** with industry partners
- a **creator of experiences** for students with industry
- a **supporter of experiences** for teachers and students
- a **communicator of experiences** for the schools & district

Reach out to an Academy Coach today

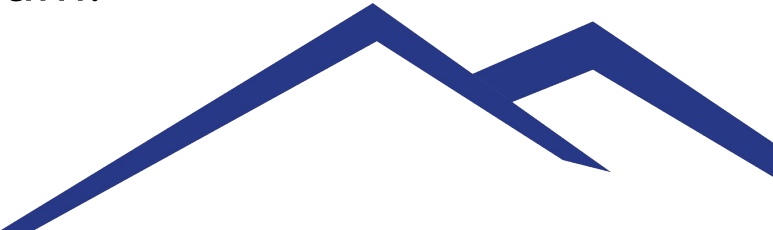
- **There is one at each of the 8 high schools**

Our Ask...

Support the Academies of Anchorage:

- Be a **Guest Speaker** at a high school
 - Share your time and talent with ASD students
 - Promote the career options in your industry
- **Advocate** for continued funding of the Academies
 - Write the school board or contact your legislature
- Want to know more? Talk to our team.

Academies@asdk12.org



Questions

