



School of Education
UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

BUILDING A TEACHER PIPELINE THAT ENGAGES UNDERSERVED YOUTH

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Strengthening Alaska's Early Childhood Education Workforce

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YOUR JOURNEY. YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR IMPACT.

AGENDA

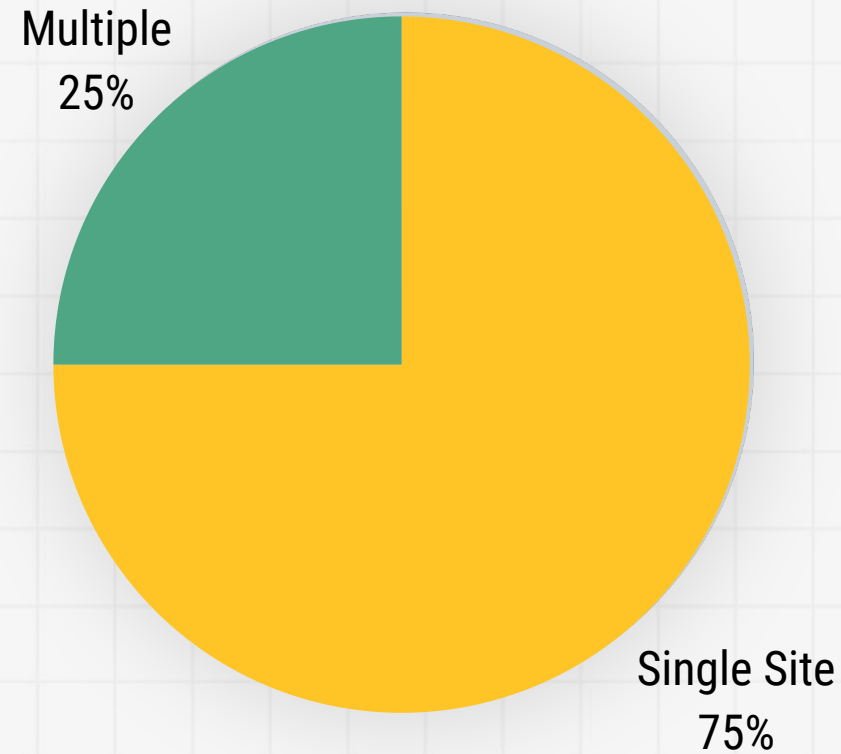
YOUTH EARLY TEACHING INITIATIVE (YETI)

- Alaska's Childcare & Teacher Crisis
- The Path to YETI
- Stackable Credentials
- YETI Program Design
- Looking to the Future

WELCOME TO ALASKA



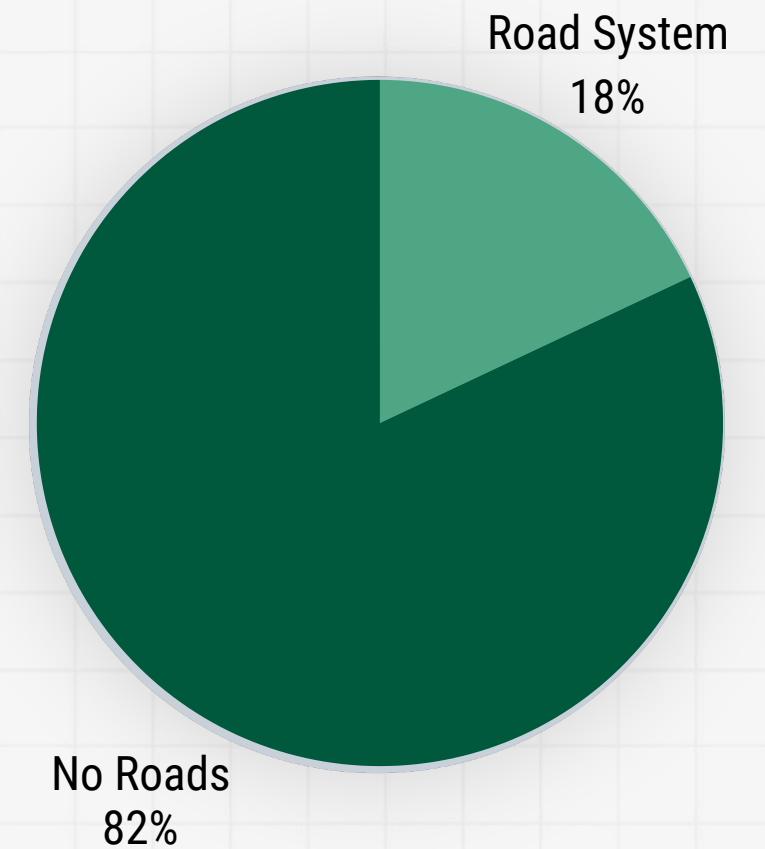
A VAST GEOGRAPHY



Roughly 75% to 80% of Alaska's communities rely on a single local school serving anywhere from 10 to 350 total students



Aviation, particularly “Bush Planes” are the only year-round means of transportation for people, goods, mail, and services in most of the state.



Percent of Alaskan communities connected to the road system



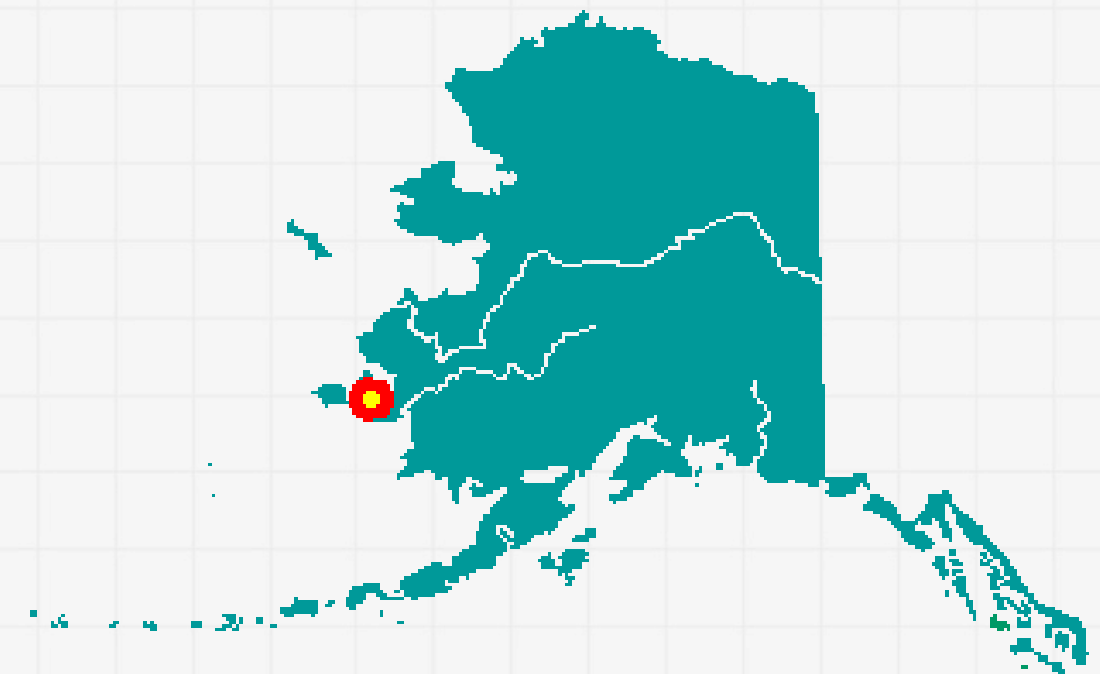
REMOTE ALASKA



Population: 628

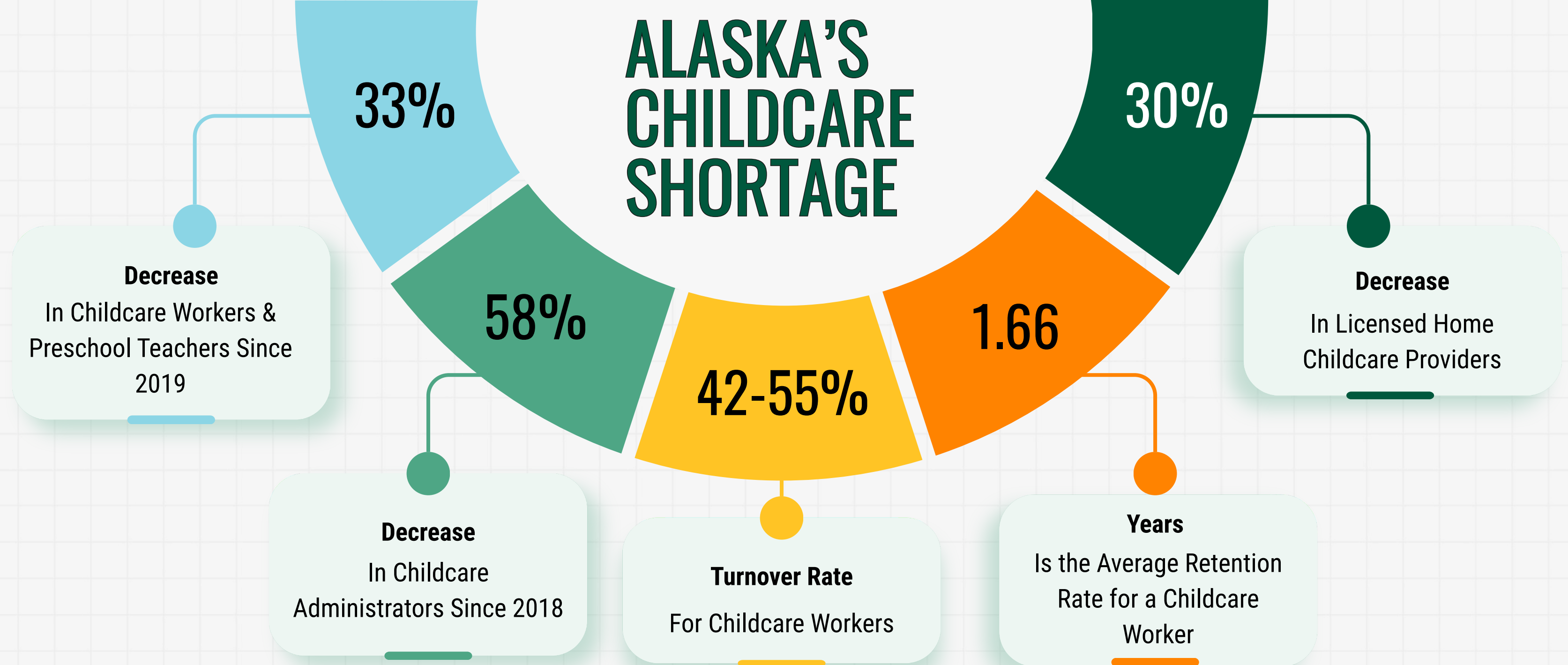
K-12 Students: 171

Single Community School



Toksook Bay, Alaska

ALASKA'S CHILDCARE SHORTAGE

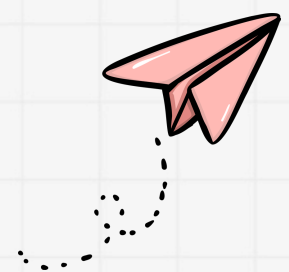


INADEQUATE COMPENSATION



Median wage for a childcare worker is **\$15/hr**, with Alaska's living wage being **\$17/hr**
20% of childcare workers receive **no benefits**
No clear ladder for **advancement**

THE PATH TO YETI



Trust Building

New partnerships with childcare and tribal organizations

Industry Initiatives

Governor's Task Force on Childcare
Sprout Scholar program created by the Alaska Department of Health

Grant Award

Perkins Grant awarded
The first teacher assistant apprentices graduate

2022

2022

2023

2024

2025

2025

Dual Credit Expansion

Additional dual credit agreements established, expanding partnerships statewide

Educator Apprenticeships

Educator apprenticeship program launched
Growing interest in pre-apprenticeships

The Start

YETI launched, with recruitment from the Sprout Scholar program and teacher assistant apprentice graduates



Educator Apprenticeship Founding Partners



Rural CAP
Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Inc.

ARCTIC SLOPE
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



**SEALASKA
HERITAGE**



"We started by asking, 'What would it look like to co-own this from the beginning?' That shift required **listening** more than leading."

-Dr. Tonia Dousay
Dean, School of Education

DESIGNED WITH, NOT FOR



UNIVERSITY DRIVEN

01

Design then Deliver

02

Community Conforms to Created Policy

03

Firm Administrative Policies & Procedures

04

Indigenous Student Needs Largely Unaddressed

05

Difficult Navigation of College Processes

COMMUNITY DRIVEN



Co-Design with Partners

01

Community Needs Drive Policy

02

Flexibility to Meet Community Needs

03

Responsive to Indigenous Student Needs

04

Targeted Support for Navigating Processes

05

EDUCATOR APPRENTICESHIP STACKABLE PATHWAYS

Occupational Endorsement Certificate (OEC)

18 Credits

This workforce certificate program equips students to work with infants and toddlers



1

Associate of Applied Science (AAS)

OEC + 45 Credits

Prepares teaching assistants, Head Start teachers, preschool teachers, and other learning professionals



2

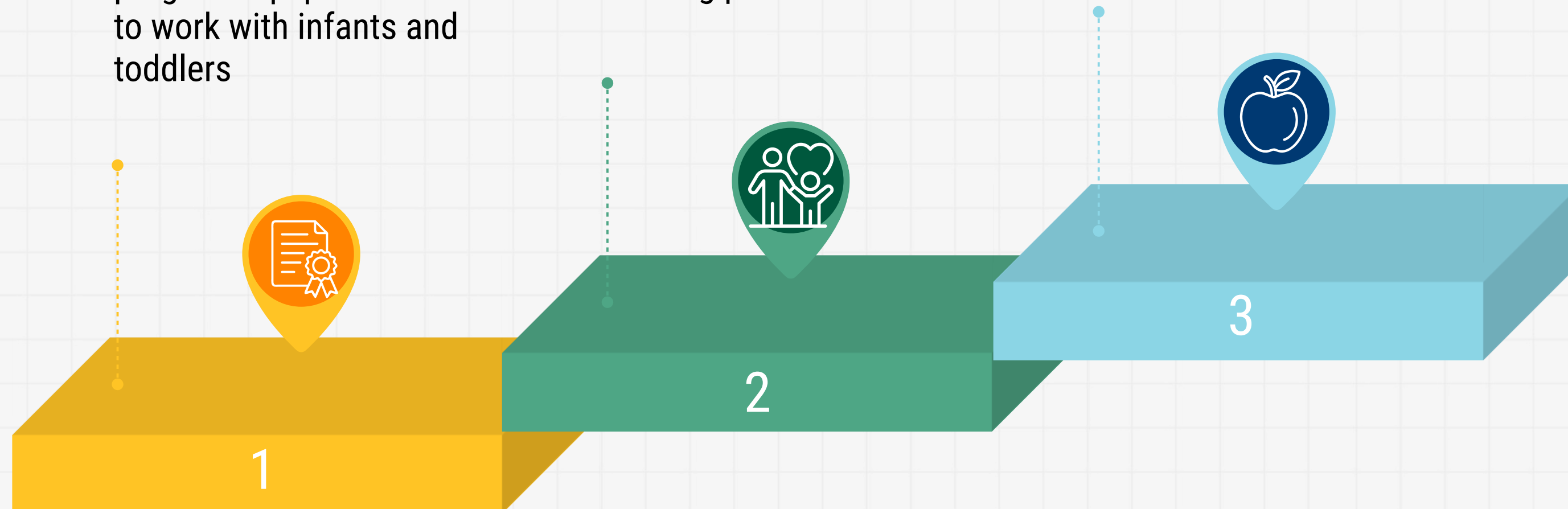
Bachelor of Arts (BA)

AAS + 62

Prepares preschool teachers and early elementary school teachers. Eligible for teacher licensure.



3



OCCUPATIONAL ENDORSEMENT CERTIFICATE IN INFANT AND TODDLER DEVELOPMENT

The Occupational Endorsement Certificate in Infant and Toddler Development prepares students to work with infants and toddlers and their families in a variety of settings, including childcare, family care settings, and Early Head Start programs.

NAEYC Accredited 18 Credits

EDEC 105

Introduction to
Early Childhood
Education



EDEC 106

Creativity and
the Arts in Early
Childhood



EDEC 107

Child
Development
and Learning*



EDEC 108

Health, Nutrition
and Wellness for
Children Birth-
12



EDEC 241

Infant and
Toddler
Development*



EDEC 242

Culturally
Responsive Family
Engagement*



*Requires Fieldwork

All courses are offered as dual credit or dual enrollment except EDEC 241

EDUCATOR APPRENTICESHIP STACKABLE PATHWAYS

Dual Credit & Dual Enrollment

Foundation Support

Secondary students earn workforce skills by completing courses and fieldwork opportunities in their communities

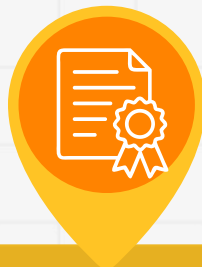


Pre

Occupational Endorsement Certificate (OEC)

18 Credits

This workforce certificate equips students to work with infants and toddlers



1

Associate of Applied Science (AAS)

OEC + 45 Credits

Prepares teaching assistants, Head Start teachers, preschool teachers, and other learning professionals



2

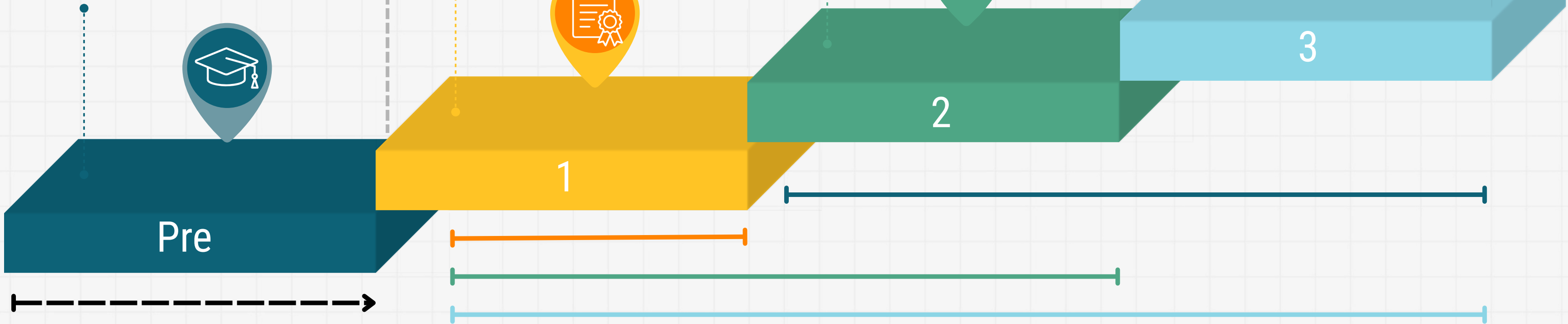
Bachelor of Arts (BA)

AAS + 62

Prepares preschool teachers and early elementary school teachers; eligible for teacher licensure



3



CREATION OF YETI

Opportunities
Within Home
Communities



Support Childcare
Workforce

Low Cost,
or Free

What if?
Why not?

Engage High
School
Students

YETI PROGRAM DESIGN

SECONDARY

→ Expand dual credit partnerships with school districts
Support summer on-the-job learning experiences



- All secondary students statewide
- Students in remote communities
- Homeschool, private school, and public school students
- Students that have previously taken dual credit courses at their school



Occupational Endorsement Certificate

POSTSECONDARY

→ Leverage partnerships to connect students with registered apprenticeship opportunities
Increase the number of childcare workers



- High school graduates with < 20 college credits
- High school graduates with an OEC
- Educator apprentice graduates (OEC track)
- Sprout Scholars
- Tribal partners with childcare centers

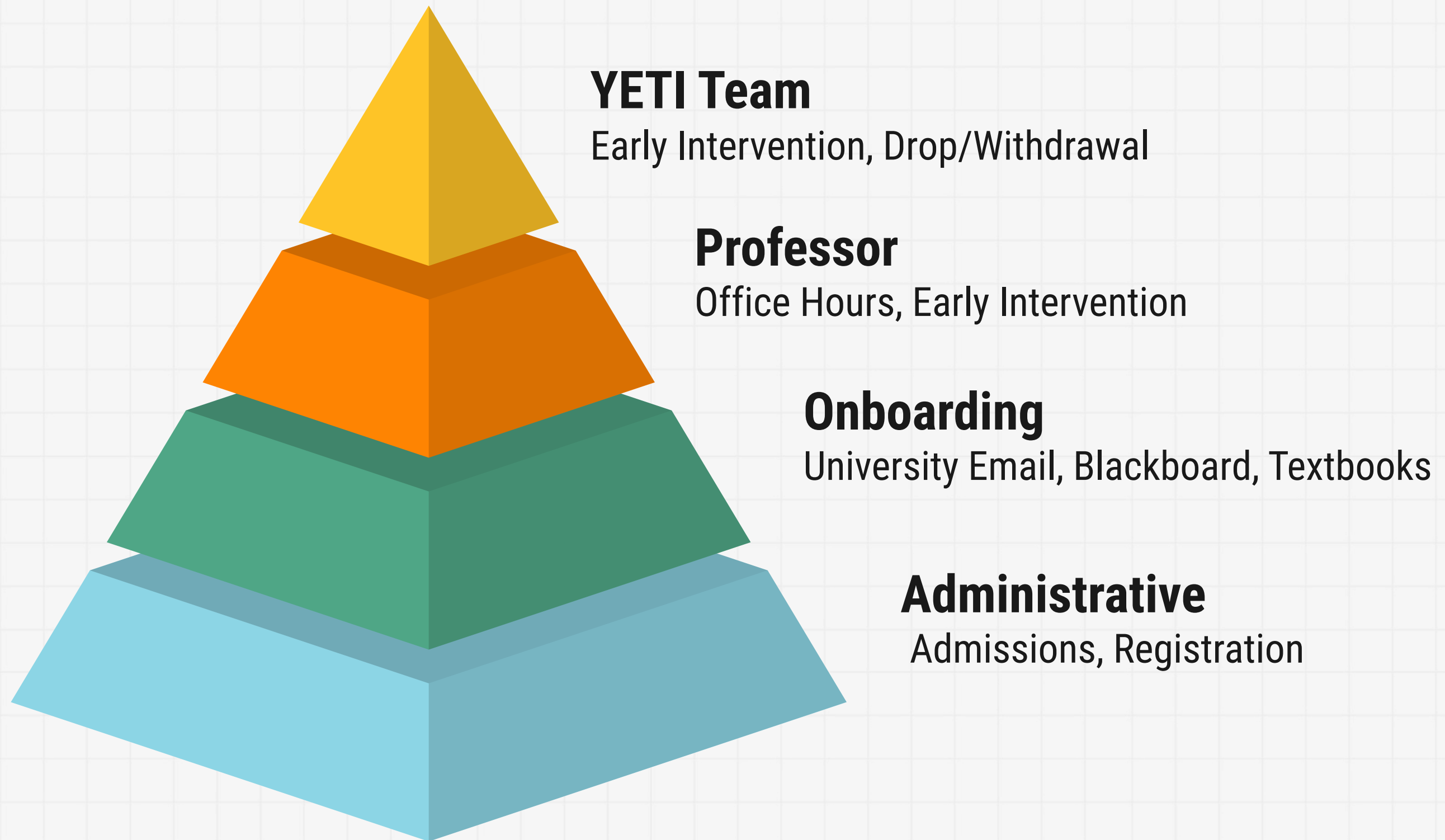


Associate of Applied Science Degree in Early Childhood Development

All courses are offered virtually, after 4 pm, with accommodations to complete all fieldwork in the participant's home community

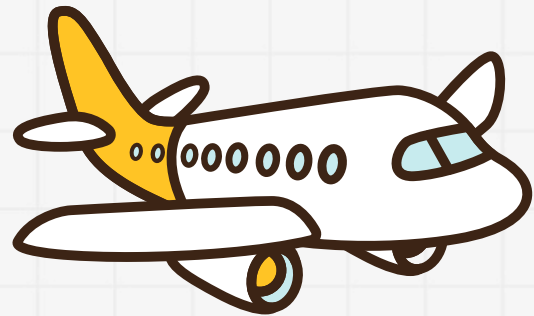


SUPPORT FOR YETI SCHOLARS



SECONDARY EXPERIENTIAL SUMMER CHILDCARE CAMP

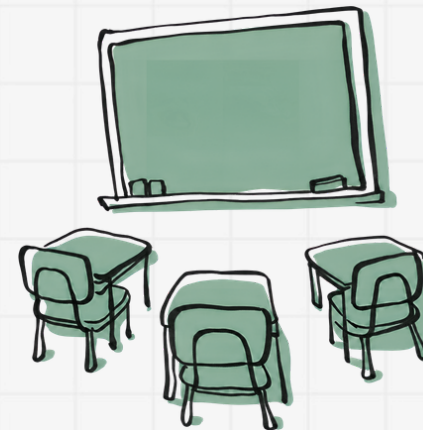
Week-long placement tied to EDEC A241, observing and working with infants and young children at a childcare facility in Anchorage. Completely free for the student and school district. Airfare, lodging, and meals are covered under the grant.



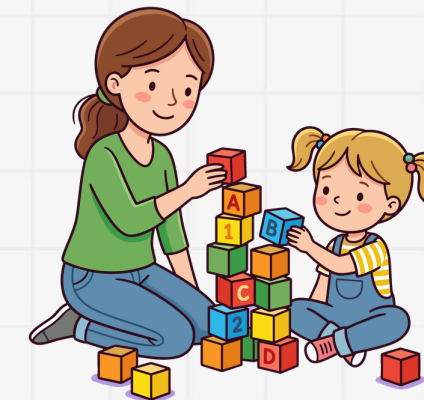
Fly to Anchorage
for a week



Stay in the
dorms at UAA



EDEC 241 Course
Intensive



Complete Required
Fieldwork at a
Childcare Facility
in Anchorage



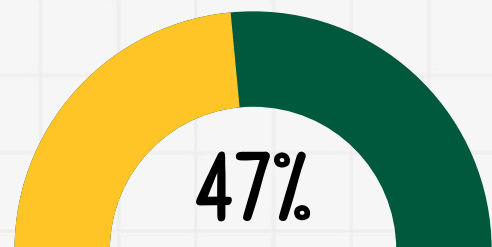
Finish the Course
Asynchronously

ACHIEVEMENTS

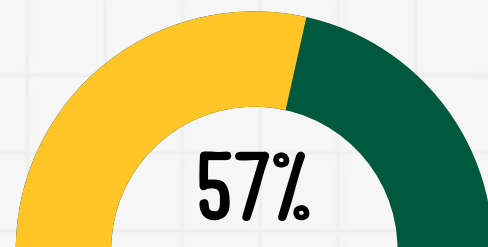
Secondary Program Spring 26-Fall 26

53 Students Enrolled in Introduction to Early Childhood Education

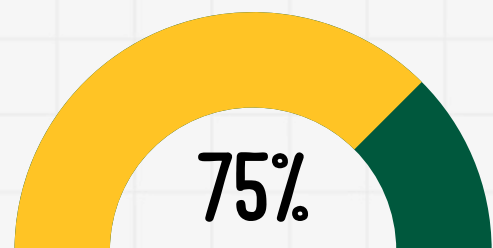
11% Male Students



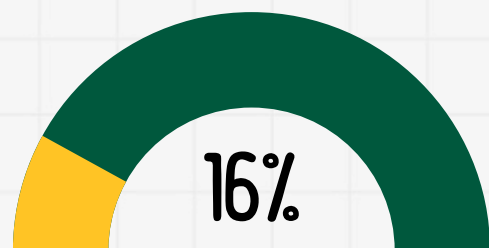
Rural/Remote



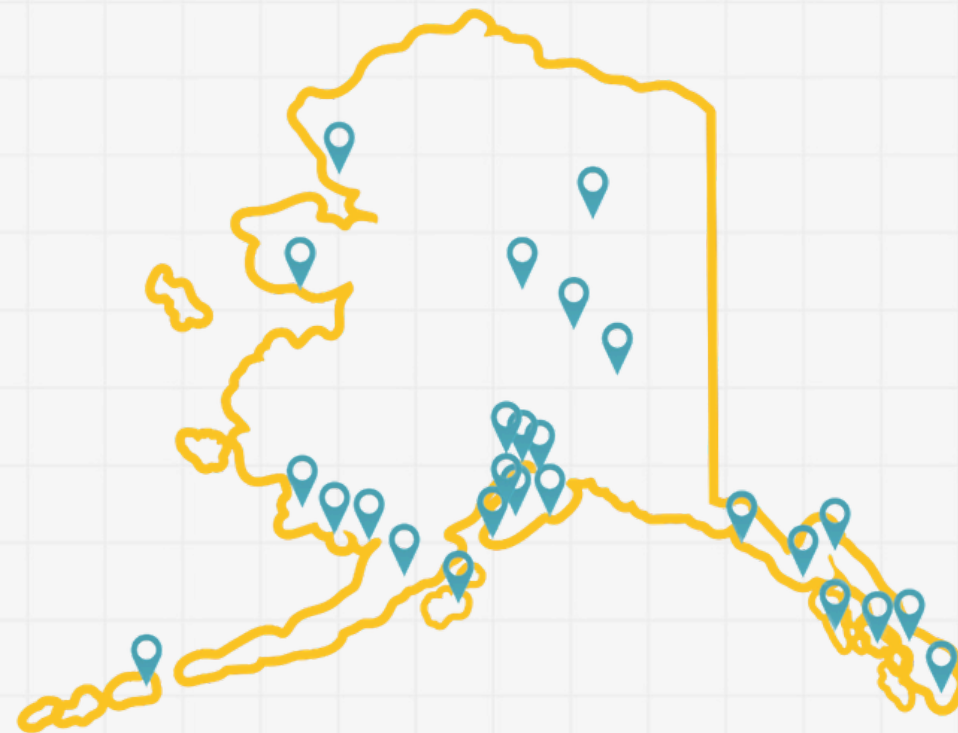
Minority



Course Completion Rate



Continued Spring to Fall



YETI participant geographic representation

"I want to be there for the kids in the villages of Alaska and ensure that they're healthy, happy, safe, and receiving the best form of education there is to offer."
-A secondary student participant

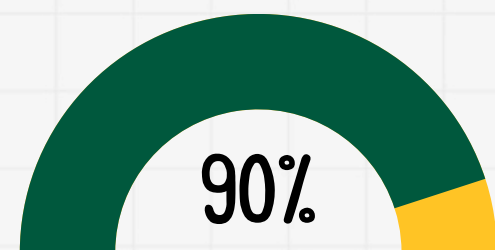
Postsecondary Program Fall 25-Fall 26

15 Scholarship Receipients

6 3 Students earned the AAS degree + 3 additional this semester

2 Exited the program to join an apprenticeship

2 Expected to join an apprenticeship in Spring



Course Completion Rate



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