

CIS of Mat-Su continued

This program is designed for K-12 students whose needs cannot be met within the regular school environment. The goal for all students is full community and educational reintegration.

Targeted youth include:

- Students with IEPs facing long-term suspension or expulsion
- Students who are 19-22 years old who need to transition to community programs and access additional educational or behavioral opportunities
- Students returning from residential placement outside of Alaska
- Students demonstrating behavior challenges requiring a more restrictive environment than self-contained programs in regular schools

CIS of Nome

CIS of Nome operates through Nome Public Schools. It offers a variety of services to address the "Five Basics" of Communities in Schools.

Services include:

Community Service/In-School-Suspension Program - serves to reduce risk factors and increase protective factors for students so that they can more positively engage in school to improve their attendance, reduce negative behavior incidents and improve achievements.

Educational Enhancement Services - focusing on tutoring (1:1 and web-based), homework assistance and summer school.

After-School Opportunities - a range of pro-social, recreational, vocational and cultural activities such as: Chess Club, youth basketball, Native Youth Olympics, Eskimo dancing and arts instruction for both students and adults.

Imagination Library – an early literacy program targeting local children up to age five and their families.

Dropout Prevention Specialist – coordination of resources throughout the community with the goal of meeting the needs of potential dropouts to keep them in school.

Communities In Schools of Alaska

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Program Synopsis

STATEWIDE INITIATIVES

Career Exploration Opportunities (CEO)

CEO works to expand career options and opportunities to Alaskan youth, specifically targeting rural high school students through an interactive technology and mentor coaching curriculum. CEO is a blended learning program with videoconferencing as an integral component. CEO encourages students to stay in school, helps them make informed career decisions and helps them prepare for success in the workforce after high school. CEO addresses the following Alaska Content Standards for graduation: English/Language Arts, Math, Employability, Technology, and Library/Information Literacy.

Last year, CEO served 134 students (exceeding its target of 125 students), in seven (7) different schools, from seven (7) school districts across the state including Anchorage, Buckland, Juneau, Takotna, Nome, Shaktoolik and Shishmaref.

Additionally, CIS of Alaska CEO and the University of Anchorage have recently partnered to provide a CIS CEO Scholarship (providing free tuition and books) for youth interested in a logistics operations career certificate program. Web Site: <http://ceo.cisalaska.org>

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Children ages 0-5 who are registered for the program receive a book every month to encourage a love of reading and learning. If a family has more than one pre-school aged child, each child may participate and receive his/her own library. Developmentally appropriate books arrive monthly through the mail and are addressed to the child. Current IL sites are in Nome, Juneau, Fairbanks, Wainwright with planned replication in Anchorage (Mountain View), Mat-Su and Girdwood.

The Imagination Library has been endorsed by Best Beginnings, Rotary District 5010, Weed and Seed of Mountain View and ConocoPhillips. CIS of Alaska is taking the lead to assist interested communities in replicating the Imagination Library in their areas.

NETWORK AFFILIATES

CIS of Anchorage/AVAIL

CIS of Anchorage operates through the Anchorage Vocational Academic Institute of Learning. AVAIL is an alternative high school program devoted to youth who have dropped out of a traditional school.

AVAIL is designed to help students return to the educational system and obtain skills for employment with an emphasis on students earning a high school diploma.

CIS works with AVAIL to focus on:

- Academic Skills
- Employment Skills
- Personal Responsibility
- Individualized Learning
- Preparation for the High School Graduation Qualifying Exam (HSGQE)

CIS of Bethel

CIS of Bethel operates through Bethel Alternative Boarding School. BABS actively recruits students who have dropped out of school, have had trouble with the law, have had struggles with alcohol or drugs and are ready to turn their lives around.

Efforts being led by CIS of Bethel:

Bethel's MCA Community Diversion Panel - an alternative to the regular court system for first-time *Minor Consuming Alcohol* offenders, which utilizes restorative rather than punitive measures to change behaviors and help youth get their lives back on track. Tribal Courts and Traditional Councils work with youth in villages outside of Bethel providing a link to local resources, often meeting with them weekly for Elder-led counseling, overseeing Community Work Service, and connecting them with other caring adults.

Court Advocacy – support and assistance for families going through the confusing maze of the legal system for minors charged with consuming alcohol (MCA), help connecting them with legal free legal representation and acting as a liaison between their attorney and the Diversion Panel.

Youth Support Group – support group open to all youth covering a variety of issues they may encounter. The group is organized by CIS and offers transportation for youth to attend. Social Workers, Chemical Dependency Counselors and other professionals volunteer their time to lead the group.

Support for Big Brothers Big Sisters – financial resources for the training and support of high school mentors in Bethel.

CIS of Juneau

CIS of Juneau operates through the Juneau Effective Prevention Project. JEPP's focus is on substance use and violence prevention in teenagers.

Efforts being led by CIS of Juneau:

Family Involvement - Alaska Native Elder's Mentoring Program

Alaska Native Elder's mentoring program was initiated to help Alaska Native students by reconnecting them to their rich culture. Elders provide help to students and their families by addressing the need of positive adult role models. That interaction in turn will reduce risky behaviors that lead students into truant habits. In addition, the Elders educating parents about the importance of their involvement in their children's education by attending parent teacher conferences and helping them with homework or merely showing interest in their school work.

Truancy Prevention - After School Program

"Ethics and Leadership" is an after school program that was initiated the last semester of the school year. This program is designed to reduce delinquency through programs that teach positive virtues such as respect, moral courage, and ethical decision making. Students learn to develop a personal code of ethics and demonstrate a greater awareness of personal values and other factors influencing one's own behavior.

Individual Counseling through Care Coordinator

A student's failure to attend school is due to many factors, such as family related issues, personal, academic and school climate. The care coordinator, after meeting with the individual student and maybe the family, determines what sort of services would best help that student. The referral service can include alcohol and substance evaluation and treatment, temporary family assistance for families, assistance from division of family and youth services or mental health evaluation and counseling. The care coordinator is ready to respond at the first notice of truancy.

Imagination Library

An early literacy program initiated in partnership with the Association of Young Children of Southeast Alaska. The program now has 700 students enrolled.

CIS of Mat-Su

CIS of Mat-Su has partnered with the Mat-Su Borough School District and Alaska Family Services to establish a new school named the Mat-Su Day School.

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