



# **GCDSE Trust Report Feb 18-19, 2026**

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# 2026 Legislative Positions

1. SB 178 Infant Learning Program(ILP) Expansion
2. HB 246 – Special Education Service Agency (SESA) Funding Gap
3. HB 141 – Adult Changing Spaces
4. End the Waitlist- Budget Items
5. HB 26 – Public Transit in Statute
6. HB 39/SB 9 – Deaf Education Bill
7. HB 272 – Prosthetics and Orthotics Insurance Coverage Expansion





# Background

- IDEA Part C mandate
- AK is most strict
- No funding increase since FY13
- Study to support expansion of funding and eligibility- **THANK YOU!**





## Advocacy Effort- SB178

- Lower eligibility to 25% delay
  - 77% increase in enrollment
- Align with K-12 eligibility
- Increase funding to accompany
- Medicaid billing

# SAVINGS to Alaska

46% of children exiting ILP will not require Special Education services

Savings of \$229K  
PER CHILD

Over time will save \$35 million per year in special education funding

# More Benefits of SB178



- Fewer Medicaid waiver services
- Lessened need for special needs childcare
- Reduced crime & victimization
- Increased workforce



# Where are we now...

SB 178 introduced by Senate HSS committee

The funding increase was included in the final budget sent to the Governor last year.

The increase was vetoed.



# Alaska data on ILP

15 programs across Alaska serve every community

FFY23 Child count (Dec 1): 936

Total enrollment: 1889

ILP film link:

<https://vimeo.com/showcase/11541052?share=copy>



# Alaska data from DEED

2024-2025 Special education enrollment – 20,578

Annual cost per child - \$19,463

**OVER HALF OF  
THE ALASKANS  
ON THE  
WAITLIST ARE  
CHILDREN**

## **DDRR Data**

- IDD Registry (waiting for a waiver)
  - 10 people or 2.3% are 0-3 years
  - 232 people or 52.4% are 4-17 years
- ISW Registry (waiting for a partial waiver)
  - 4 people or 2.5% are 0-3 years
  - 93 or 58.9% are 4-17 years old



# Thank you!

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