



UAA Center for Alaska Education Policy Research

UNIVERSITY of ALASKA ANCHORAGE

WHAT IS CAEPR?

Founded in 2010 as a division of the Institute of Social and Economic Research, the Center for Alaska Education Policy Research (CAEPR) addresses the need for Alaska-specific research through supporting, conducting and disseminating high-quality research on critical education policy issues such as educational access, equity and excellence across early childhood, primary, secondary, higher and adult education.

CAEPR'S CORE VALUES ARE:

- The center supports objective, non-partisan, rigorous research
- The center's work is conducted in partnership and collaboration with faculty from across the university system, key stakeholders and policymakers
- The center promotes community engagement by connecting researchers with policymakers and stakeholders, and by making research accessible to multiple audiences

WHAT IS EDUCATION POLICY RESEARCH

Education policy research is a broad and evolving field of study. There are a number of topic areas and research approaches that fall under this moniker, from economic studies, including cost-benefit or "production function" research to organizational studies, looking at how policies are implemented to evaluation studies, assessing the impact and outcomes of policies. Education policy research can address how policies are developed and the relationship of politics to policies or policies to practice. It also can inform policymaking, answering questions decision-makers have about what is currently happening, why it is happening, and what might be needed to address a particular challenge.

CENTER ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Working with an advisory board to identify and address the most important educational policy issues facing Alaska.
- Conducting research on key education policy issues with researchers around the state, as well as from outside Alaska, including Education Northwest and the National Education Policy Center at the University of Colorado.
- Analyzing education policy initiatives at the local, state and national levels.
- Building research capacity throughout Alaska through mini-grant funding, proposal development assistance and methodology consultations.
- Doing "rapid response" research for time-sensitive requests from federal, state and local policymakers.
- Sponsoring undergraduate researchers to assist with projects through the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarship at UAA and the First Alaskans Institute summer internship program.

CAEPR'S ADVISORY BOARD

The CAEPR 2012-2013 Advisory Board includes representatives from the following groups and organizations:

Alaska Commissioner of Education and
Early Development
Alaska Commission on Postsecondary
Education
Alaska Council of School Administrators
Alaska Native Educators Association
Alaska State House and Senate Education
committees
Association of Alaska School Boards

Association of ANCSA Regional
Corporations
Best Beginnings
First Alaskans Institute
NEA-Alaska
Office of the Governor
Private industry
University of Alaska

The University of Alaska's three deans of education serve as CAEPR's steering committee to ensure that the center is effectively building education policy research capacity across the university.