

RESOLUTION NUMBER 18-01
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE EARLY CARE AND LEARNING IN ALASKA

WHEREAS, the Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) is an industry-driven public organization comprised of representatives from business and industry, education, organized labor, and government; and

WHEREAS, the AWIB is a public organization that is accountable through its members and staff to the residents, the Legislature, and the Governor of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the AWIB shall act as the lead state planning and coordinating entity for state programs involving employment training, workforce development, and career, technical, and vocational education; and

WHEREAS, the AWIB recognizes Alaska must have a highly skilled and educated workforce for a strong economy, stable employment rates, and healthy communities; and

WHEREAS, Alaska's employers value character skills, also known as social emotional or "soft" skills such as problem solving, initiative, flexibility, the ability to communicate and work with others, and resiliency; and

WHEREAS; the AWIB recognizes a growing body of national research showing character skills formed in early childhood impact workforce readiness by developing social-emotional skills; and

WHEREAS, this national research shows that "kindergarten ready" children are likelier to attain a high school diploma, a college degree, and to have a full time job by the age of 25; and

WHEREAS, the AWIB understands the positive individual outcomes associated with quality early care and learning can also ultimately reduce costs associated with crime, delinquency, and reliance on social programs; and

WHEREAS, the AWIB recognizes the importance of access to early care and learning services that allow parents of young children to more effectively participate in the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the AWIB acknowledges a highly trained early care and learning workforce is required to provide quality services, and the early care and learning sector directly supports thousands of jobs in Alaska;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Workforce Investment Board encourages policy makers and business leaders to look for opportunities to expand access to quality early care and learning, to recognize the return on resources invested in the early care and learning sector, and to acknowledge the strong connection between early care and learning and preparing Alaskans to meet industry needs.

CERTIFICATION

The Alaska Workforce Investment Board held a meeting duly and regularly called, noticed, and convened this 15th day of February and the foregoing Resolution was adopted unanimously at said meeting.

Signed this 15th day of February.



Larry Bell, Chair
Alaska Workforce Investment Board