The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) and the University of Alaska (UA) want to increase the education and training of teacher aides and to learn why they leave their positions. The information you provide in this survey will help DEED and UA create programs to address your needs.

We appreciate your taking the time to answer the following questions. Your participation is voluntary and you may refuse to answer any of the questions. Your answers will be confidential and used only in combination with the responses of other aides. We will destroy any identifying information after the study is completed, and you will never be identified by name in any reports. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Patricia DeRoche at UAA (by phone at 907-786-7710 or e-mail: anpfd@uaa.alaska.edu).

During the 2000-2001 school year, did you work as a teacher aide?

- Yes
- No

Please answer the questions that follow.

A. WORK EXPERIENCE

A1. Not including this school year, how many years have you worked as a teacher aide? [circle one]

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 or more

A2. Last year, how many hours did you work as an aide each week? [select one]

- 1–10 hrs
- 11–20 hrs
- 21–30 hrs
- 31–40 hrs
- 40 hrs or more
A3. Last year, which students did you work with the most? [mark all that apply]

- Preschool
- Kindergarten
- Early elementary (grades 1–3)
- Upper elementary (grades 4–6)
- Middle grades (7–8)
- High School (9–12)

A4. Which of the following groups did you work with most? [mark all that apply]

- Special education students
- Title I students
- Regular education students
- Migrant education students
- Preschool
- Bilingual students
- Other ➔ Please specify _________________________

A5. This year, are you working as a teacher aide?

- Yes
- No

B. EDUCATION

B1. What is the highest level of education you have completed? [select one]

- Elementary school
- Some high school
- High school diploma or GED
- Some college
- Associate degree ➔ (Please specify degree) _________________________
- Some college beyond AA degree
- Bachelor degree ➔ (Please specify degree) _________________________
- Some graduate-level study
- Graduate-level degree ➔ (Please specify degree)___________________

B1a. Have you earned any teaching certificates?

- No
- Yes ➔ (Please specify) _________________________
B2. If you have taken college courses, where did you take them? [mark all that apply]

- A community college or rural campus in Alaska (which one)
- University of Alaska Anchorage
- University of Alaska Fairbanks
- University of Alaska Southeast
- Alaska Pacific University
- Sheldon Jackson College
- By correspondence or on the Internet
- University or college outside of Alaska (please specify)

- Other

B3. About how many college credit hours have you earned?  

B4. Are you currently working toward a degree or certificate?

- No ➝ Skip to Section C, page 4

- Yes

  B4a. Which degree or certificate are you working toward? [mark one]

  - Certificate in ________________________________
  - Associate degree in ________________________________
  - Bachelor degree in ________________________________
  - Other ➝ (please specify) ________________________________

  B4b. At which institution are you working toward a degree or certificate?

  B4c. How many more credits must you take before you earn your degree or certificate?  ➝  

  B4d. In what year do you hope to earn your degree or certificate?  

  200___
C. EXPERIENCE WITH DISTANCE-DELIVERED COURSES

C1. Have you taken any courses by distance delivery (mail, audio conference, television, computer, internet, or others)?

☐ No ➜ Skip to Section D, page 5

☐ Yes

C1a. Below, please list the colleges or universities from which you have taken distance-delivered courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College or University Providing Distance-delivered Courses</th>
<th>Number of Credits Completed</th>
<th>Years Courses Taken (e.g., 1999-2000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C1b. How would you describe your experience with distance-delivered courses? [select the one which best describes your experience]

☐ Positive (I learned a lot and enjoyed the experience)
☐ Somewhat positive (I learned some; it was a satisfactory experience)
☐ Mixed (I learned from some courses, but not from others)
☐ Less than positive (I didn't learn much)
☐ Negative (I learned very little and didn’t enjoy it at all)

C1c. Would you take more distance-delivered courses if you had the opportunity?

☐ Yes
☐ No
D. EXPERIENCE WITH RURAL/EXTENDED CAMPUS COURSES

D1. Have you taken any courses on a rural/extended campus of the University of Alaska (for example, Bethel, Dillingham, Kenai, Kodiak, Kotzebue, Mat-Su, Nome, Sitka, or Valdez?)

- No ➔ Skip to Section E, page 6
- Yes ➔

D1a. Below, please list the rural campuses from which you have taken courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rural/Extended Campus</th>
<th>Number of Credits Completed</th>
<th>Years Courses Taken (e.g., 1999-2000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D1b. How would you describe your experience with these courses?

[select the one which best describes your experience]

- Positive (I learned a lot and enjoyed the experience)
- Somewhat positive (I learned some; it was a satisfactory experience)
- Mixed (I learned from some courses, but not from others)
- Less than positive (I didn’t learn much)
- Negative (I learned very little and didn’t enjoy it at all)

D1c. Would you take more courses from a rural/extended campus if you had the opportunity?

- Yes
- No
E. EXPERIENCE WITH UNIVERSITY COURSES

E1. Have you taken any courses on a college or university campus?

○ No ➜ Skip to Section F, page 7

○ Yes

E1a. Below, please list the universities from which you have taken courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Number of Credits Completed</th>
<th>Years Courses Taken (e.g., 1999-2000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

E1b. How would you describe your experience with on-campus university courses? [select the one which best describes your experience]

○ Positive (I learned a lot and enjoyed the experience)
○ Somewhat positive (I learned some; it was a satisfactory experience)
○ Mixed (I learned from some courses, but not from others)
○ Less than positive (I didn't learn much)
○ Negative (I learned very little and didn't enjoy it at all)

E1c. Would you take more on-campus university courses if you had the opportunity?

○ Yes
○ No
F. FUTURE PLANS

- If you ARE working toward a degree or certificate, skip to question F2 on the next page.
- If you ARE NOT working toward a degree or certificate, continue with question F1.

F1. If you are NOT currently working toward a degree or certificate, are you interested in starting to work toward a degree or certificate?

- No ➜ **Skip to Section H, page 11**
- Yes

  F1a. Which degree or certificate would you like to work toward? [select one]
  
  - Certificate in ____________________________
  - Associate degree in ____________________________
  - Bachelor degree in ____________________________
  - Other ____________________________

  F1b. By what year would you hope to earn your degree or certificate?  

  200____

  F1c. Which grade level would you like to teach?

  - Preschool
  - Kindergarten
  - Early elementary (grades 1–3)
  - Upper Elementary (grades 4–6)
  - Middle grades (7–8)
  - High School (9–12)

  Which subject?
F2. If you are working toward a degree or certificate OR if you are interested in starting to work toward a degree or certificate, how much is each of the following a problem? Use a scale of 4 to 1 (4 = major problem; 3 = minor problem; 2 = not a problem; 1 = don't know).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Problems in working toward a degree or certificate</th>
<th>Major Problem</th>
<th>Minor Problem</th>
<th>Not a Problem</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Affordable child care</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Child care with which I am comfortable</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Money to pay tuition</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Support from the superintendent and school board</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Support from my principal</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Support from teachers</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Support from my family/friends</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Support from my community</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Good advice on which courses to take to complete a degree or certificate</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. Required courses available here in my community</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k. Courses available when I have time to take them</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l. Support here in the community for distance-delivered courses</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. Access to a computer</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n. Skills to use a computer</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o. Support to help me read college-level material</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p. Support to help me write at the college-level</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

F3. How would you rate your English skills in the following areas: excellent, good, fair, or poor?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Writing</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Reading</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Listening</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Speaking</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
G. EDUCATION/TRAINING PROGRAM OPTIONS

G1. If a program required you to be away from your community for a period of time, what is the longest period of time you could afford to be away each year? [select one]

- I couldn’t ever afford to be away
- 1–3 weeks
- 4–6 weeks
- 7–12 weeks
- Longer than 12 weeks

G2. If a program required you to be away from your community for a period of time AND provided a scholarship to pay for your travel, tuition, and living expenses, what is the longest period of time you could afford to be away each year? [select one]

- I couldn’t ever afford to be away
- 1–3 weeks
- 4–6 weeks
- 7–12 weeks
- Longer than 12 weeks

G3. If a program required you to be away from your community for a period of time AND provided a scholarship to pay for your travel, tuition, and living expenses AND provided some support for child care, what is the longest period of time you could afford to be away each year? [select one]

- I couldn’t ever afford to be away
- 1–3 weeks
- 4–6 weeks
- 7–12 weeks
- Longer than 12 weeks

G4. If the program required you to be away from your community and you could go, when would be the best time(s) of year for you to be away? [select ALL that apply]

- January
- February
- March
- April
- May
- June
- July
- August
- September
- October
- November
- December
G5. If the program required you to be away from your community and you could go, where would be the best place for you to attend seminars or classes? [select one]

- Kodiak
- Sitka
- Dillingham
- Valdez
- Nome
- Bethel
- Kotzebue
- Anchorage
- Barrow
- Fairbanks
- Juneau
- Other

G6. How comfortable would you feel with courses that would require you to use the computer as the main way to take your class and communicate with the instructor? [select one]

- Very comfortable
- Somewhat comfortable
- Not very comfortable
- Very uncomfortable

G7. Is there a computer you can use at school?

- No
- Yes

G7a. Is it connected to the Internet?

- Yes
- No
- Uncertain

G8. Is there a computer you can use at home?

- No
- Yes

G8a. Is it connected to the Internet?

- Yes
- No
- Uncertain
H. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This section asks questions about your background. The purpose is to see whether backgrounds and life circumstances affect educators' views of their jobs.

H1. How many years have you lived in the community in which you work?

H2. How long do you plan to live in this community?

H3. We are interested in learning more about why you live and work where you do. For each of the community characteristics listed below, please indicate whether it is very important, somewhat important, or not very important to you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How important are the following community characteristics in your decision to live and work in this community?</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Somewhat Important</th>
<th>Not very Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Climate and weather</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Community support for schools</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Cost of housing</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Quality of housing</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Cost of travel to other communities</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Being near family and friends</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Cost of living other than housing and transportation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Shopping opportunities</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Isolation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. Community lifestyle</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k. Living conditions</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l. Recreational opportunities</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. Subsistence opportunities</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n. Availability of medical care</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o. Quality of medical care</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p. Always lived/grew up in this community</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>q. Other characteristics of community: [Please specify]</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
H4. For each of the school characteristics listed below, please indicate whether it is very important, somewhat important, or not very important to you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How important are the following school characteristics in your decision to live and work in this community?</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Somewhat Important</th>
<th>Not very Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Salary</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Health benefits</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Availability of teaching resources</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Support from principal or supervisor</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Support from colleagues</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Relationship with students</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Student discipline</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Opportunities for professional growth</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Support from district office</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. Support from school board</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k. Working conditions</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l. Other characteristics of school or district: [Please specify]</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

H5. What is your gender?  H6. What is your age?
- Female
- Male

H7. What is your current marital status?
- Married
- Widowed, divorced, or separated
- Never married

H8. Are subsistence foods an important part of your family’s diet?
- No ➔ Continue with question H9
- Yes

H8a. Are you the primary subsistence food provider in your family?
- Yes
- No
H9. What is your race? [Mark (✔) ALL that apply]

- **Alaska Native** (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Alaska and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.)

- **American Indian** (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (EXCEPT ALASKA), including Central America, and who maintains cultural identification through tribal affiliation or community recognition.)

- **White** (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East.)

- **Black or African American** (A person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa. Terms such as "Haitian" or "Negro" can be used in addition to "Black" or "African American.")

- **Asian** (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent. This area includes, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam.)

- **Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander** (A person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.)

H10. What is your ethnicity?

- **Hispanic or Latino** (A person who traces his or her origin or descent to Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba, Central and South America, or other Spanish cultures, regardless of race. The term "Spanish origin" can be used in addition to "Hispanic or Latino.")

- **Not** Hispanic or Latino

H11. Are you the primary wage earner in your family?

- Yes  
- No

H12. Are you a parent or guardian?

- Yes ➔ **H12a. How many children are under the age of five?**
- No ➔ **H12b. How many children are in school?**
H13. Are there people who don't live in your household who depend on you for at least part of their financial support?

☐ No      ☐ Yes ➔ H13a. How many?

H14. To understand why aides do or do not pursue further education and certifications, we need to know what you earn as an aide. Please check the one range which best reflects what you earned as an aide during the 2000-2001 school year.

☐ $500 to $2500      ☐ $2501 to $5000
☐ $5001 to $7500     ☐ $7501 to $10,000
☐ $10,001 to $12,500 ☐ $12,501 to $15,000
☐ $15,001 to $17,500 ☐ $17,501 to $20,000
☐ $20,001 to $22,500 ☐ $22,501 to $25,000
☐ $25,001 to $27,500 ☐ $27,501 to $30,000
☐ $30,001 to $32,500 ☐ $32,501 to $35,000
☐ $35,001 to $40,000 ☐ More than $40,000

H15. Is there anything else that you feel would be important to our study of how to increase the education and training of teacher aides or why they leave their positions?

______________________________

H16. Please enter the date you completed this questionnaire (month/day/year). ➔ __________/___/___

Thank you for taking the time to answer our questions. We will produce a report for the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. If you would like a copy, please provide an e-mail address or a regular mailing address.

________________________________________________

________________________________________________

________________________________________________