

The First Alaskans Institute was established as a catalyst for action on major issues and challenges faced by Alaska Natives. Stressing one of its leading priority issues – educational policy reform – First Alaskans Institute created the Alaska Native Policy Center, an Alaska Native think tank. The major tasks of the Alaska Native Policy Center are to perform research and policy analysis and to provide an information clearing house for anyone who needs accurate and factual analysis on such issues.

Alaska Natives face many challenges in educational performance, attainment, and opportunities. In an effort to understand Alaska Native educational performance, the Alaska Native Policy Center asked the McDowell Group to prepare an update of Alaska Native K-12 Education Indicators, 2003. Where possible, data comparisons are made between the 2003-2004 school year and the 2002-2003 school year.

The indicators provide a brief quantitative overview of the Alaska Native educational performance, focusing on:

- *School Indicators*, including graduation rates, drop-out rates, and school performance scores.
- *School District Indicators*, including number of schools, enrollment, and number of principals, administrators, and superintendents.
- *Teacher Indicators*, including number of teachers employed, teacher/student ratios, ethnicity of teachers, teacher turnover, and teacher salary ranges.

General Education Development (GED) Diploma performance is included as an indicator.

This profile is not intended to be a comprehensive documentation of all indicators, but rather to provide selected indicators of Alaska Natives' school environment and performance. In this report, McDowell Group presents these indicators at the statewide and Alaska Native regional levels.