

# **A Vocational Educational Comprehensive Plan for Alaska**

New Strategies  
for New Times

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Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce  
Development, Division of Business  
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# Bottom Line First

- ➔ Alaska has islands of excellence in its Vocational Educational system
- ➔ The “system” lacks statewide coordination and *connections*
- ➔ The system as a whole is under funded
- ➔ New demand for growth is putting pressure on existing programs

## STRATEGY:

- ❖ Consolidation
- ❖ Investment
- ❖ Integration

# Current State

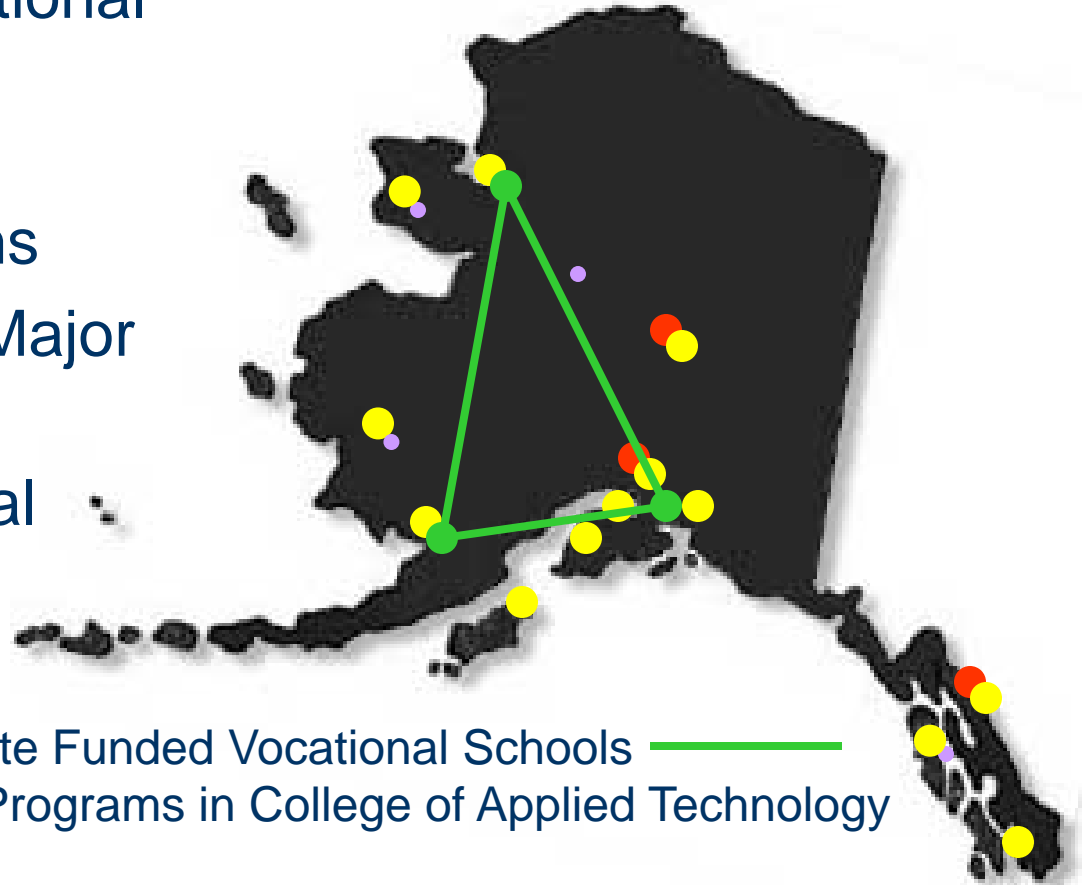
- Strategy: primary guidance from the AWIB report: Alaska's Future Workforce Strategic Policies and Investment Blueprint
- Resources: decline in stable funding but overall post-secondary growth with increased dependence on soft money
- Infrastructure: eroding our core while new programs are attempting to grow, raising sustainability and quality questions
- Competition among institutions and communities is shifting towards cooperation due to Federal pressure
- Outcomes: Increasing focus on results yet no common measures
- No connectivity or collective oversight of the disparate system

# Recommendation 1: Consolidation

- I. Consolidate post-secondary vocational education centers that currently rely on state funding:
  - Alaska Vocational Technical Center – Seward
  - Alaska Technical Center – Kotzebue
  - Southwest Alaska Vocational Education Center – King Salmon
- II. Assess merits of integrating all vo -tech programs into a College of Applied Technology as a unified post-secondary vocational technical education system
- III. Establish incentive and mechanism for additional institutions to become part of the system

# Alaska's Vo – Tech Ed Institutions

- State Funded Vocational Schools
- UA Campuses with Vocational Programs
- University System Major Academic Units
- Emerging Vocational Centers (Regional)



- Phase I: Consolidate of State Funded Vocational Schools
- Phase II: Unify Vocational Programs in College of Applied Technology

## Recommendation 2: Investment

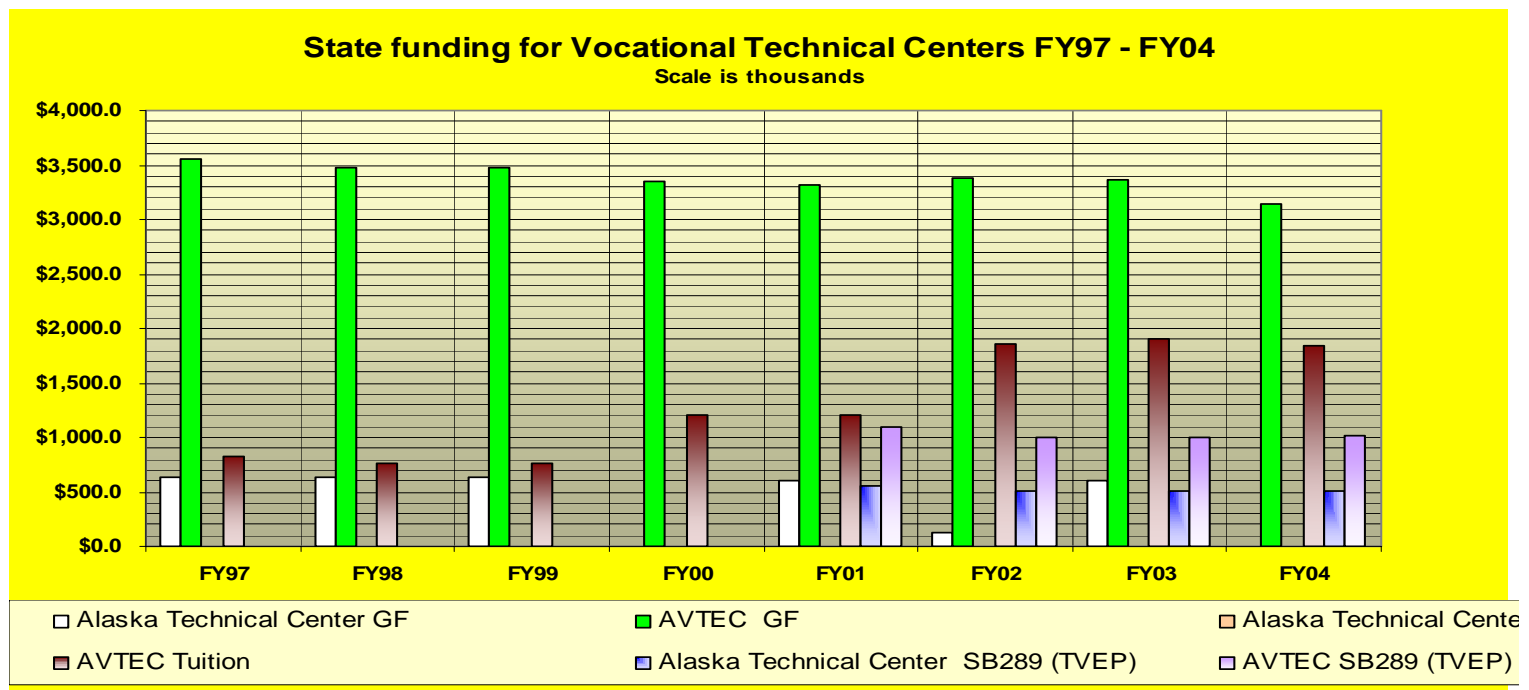
- Support Federal request for additional vocational education resources
- Change the Technical Vocational Education Program (TVEP) to require accountability
- Using “Blueprint” criteria, require institutions to ‘earn’ resources for reliable funds, reducing the dependence on short-term funds for core operations
- Eliminate programs that no longer meet industry / employer needs

## Recommendation 3: Integration

- Establish an assessment tool for vocational education based on the “Blueprint”
- Provide incentives to organizations achieving the Blueprint requirements of:
  - Meeting Employer Needs
  - Accountability for Results
  - Transferability of Credits & Curriculum
  - Statewide Governance with Local Ownership
  - Accessibility for both Urban and Rural Residents
  - Sustainability of Institutions with Viable Business Plans
- Using common measures, establish clear accountability and reporting expectations

# Investment Level Trends

- State Funding Trends, Postsecondary





# Investment Level Trends

- Federal Funding, Perkins Program

<b>Alaska Perkins Funds</b>			
Perkins Subcategories	1993	2003	% Change
Vocational Education State Grant	4,214,921	4,214,921	0%
Tech-Prep	203,977	371,362	82.06%
Community-Based Organizations	54,164	gray area: extinct funding strands	-100%
Consumer & Homemaking Ed.	160,350		-100%
State VE Councils	150,000		-100%
Supplementary VE grants	10,439		-100%
Total for Alaska :	\$4,793,851	\$4,586,283	<b>-4.33%</b>

Source: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OUS/BudgetHistory/index.html>

Cost of Living Increase for period = 27.1%

# Tactical Recommendations

- I. Establish Governor's Task Force:
  - Evaluate the costs and benefits, risks and opportunities for each recommendation
  - Assess and recommend model for consolidation (e.g. UT, MN, other)
  - Develop implementation plans and timelines
- II. Legislative Priorities:
  - STEP Reauthorization
  - TVEP Accountability
- III. Fiscal Priorities:
  - Promote Federal and local government contribution to a sustainable system
- IV. Build Support:
  - Engage partners: ATC, SAVEC, UA, local government, etc.