

# Employer Resources

## The Alaska Career Ready Program

The Alaska Career Ready program, which is designed to benefit both employers and job seekers, helps employers select, hire, train, develop and retain the high-performance work force necessary to compete successfully in today's global economy. The statewide program provides training, assessment and a credential – the Alaska Career Ready Certificate.

The program ensures that Alaska job seekers and students have the basic, or foundational, academic skills required by virtually all careers and post-secondary education. If a job seeker or student doesn't have the skills at a certain level, the program provides Web-based training targeting those skills.

Alaska's program is administered by the Alaska departments of Labor and Workforce Development, and Education and Early Development.

Job seekers can get Alaska Career Ready assessments through Alaska's 23 job centers. For students, the Department of Education is running pilot programs in six school districts for two years before fully implementing the program, which includes placement tests for sixth- and eighth-graders and WorkKeys assessments for 11th-graders in the 2009-2010 school year.

More than 30 states have existing Career Ready programs or they're in the works.

Alaska Career Ready gives job seekers and students assessments in three basic skill areas – applied mathematics, reading for information and locating information. These basic skills are found in more than 85 percent of the jobs and occupations that have been analyzed over the last 15 years.

The nationally recognized Alaska Career Ready Certificate, which lists examples of the skills the participant has achieved, has three levels – bronze, silver and gold. The higher the level, the higher the skills.

The innovative program saves Alaska employers time and money as they hire the right individuals with the necessary skills. Studies show employee retention is increased when employees are placed in jobs matched to their skill sets.

Job seekers and students first take placement tests in the three areas and do the training if they need to improve in any area. When they're ready, they take the proctored assessments, earn the Alaska Career Ready Certificate signed by Governor Sarah Palin and give it to prospective employers.

Employers request and use the certificate when they advertise job openings, hire new employees and evaluate the skills of current employees.

For more information, contact the nearest Alaska Job Center or call (877) 724-2539. Information is also available on the Internet at [careerready.alaska.gov/workready-faq.html](http://careerready.alaska.gov/workready-faq.html) and [careerready.alaska.gov](http://careerready.alaska.gov).