



Gov. Jay S. Hammond:

A message on effective schooling

More than a year ago, I asked the Alaska State Board of Education to devise a process that could determine whether our children were getting the best education possible for the dollars spent.

I asked the board to do that in light of rather large increases in the state's contribution of dollars to the local education efforts in our 52 school districts. That expenditure this year has exceeded \$400 million, about one-third of our state's operating budget.

In response, the Alaska Board of Education recommended that I establish a statewide task force of citizens—to include parents, non-parents, students, and educators—to look at our education system and perform three tasks.

In January, 1981, I acted on the state board's recommendation by appointing 13 members to the Governor's Task Force on Effective School-

ing. The three tasks I assigned this body were (1) to define the role and responsibilities of the public school in the total education of our state's youth; (2) to examine the broad array of available education research to determine which practices would contribute to make effective education happen in Alaska's classrooms; and (3) to recommend a course of action to see that our schools implement these effective schooling practices.

The highlights of the task force's report submitted to me in September are included within the pages of this newspaper supplement. I hope every Alaskan takes the time to consider the contents carefully to determine whether we are on the right track.

I would like to point out that the task force report provides for a statewide system of education designed to improve and strengthen the con-

cept of local control of education. For example, if citizens are aware of the effective schooling practices contained within these pages, they will be more knowledgeable of what schools should be accomplishing. With these effective schooling practices, citizens would be able to determine whether their schools are doing a good job. If they are not, an examination of these practices should be able to tell them why they are not, and will further tell them how to make improvements.

After your consideration, I would like to know your thoughts about this task force report. I hope that you take the time to relay your thoughts to me on the response form located on page eight of this supplement.

I would like to thank the effective schooling task force members for their many hours of hard work, concern, dedication and effort.

— Jay S. Hammond