

# Alaska attitudes parallel nation's

How does Alaska compare with the nation as a whole when viewing societal changes and their impact upon its schools?

There are many parallels, and yet there are some differences. Alaska has gone through the transition from a system composed of mission, territorial, city, and Bureau of Indian Affairs schools, to one of city, borough, and state-supported regional districts. Alaska has not experienced large scale industrialization; and migration in Alaska has largely been from other states.

Alaska is beginning to experience the impact of television on a statewide basis.

The boarding school model of secondary schooling has been abandoned so that children can attend high school in their local villages.

Even more important, the right of citizens to retain their cultures of origin has been recognized and assisted through efforts to provide bicultural instruction.

Alaskans have prided themselves upon being able to look for solutions unique to the state and its circumstances. Yet, when one compares criticisms and concerns expressed by Alaskans regarding education with those being expressed elsewhere in the nation, there is often a great deal of similarity.