

Bilingual Spreads

Thirty-Two Villages Now Included

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The Alaska State-Operated Schools Department of Bilingual Education is conducting in-service training workshops in Inupiat, Yupik, Athabascan and Aleut which involve training native people in literacy, classroom management and techniques for 32 rural Alaskan villages. The workshops are open for any village which is in the general language area.

Since the fall of 1972, the development of Bilingual Education, with the aid of the legislation passed in 1972, the program has increased greatly. Initially, there were two programs. By the middle of the winter of 1973, there were 20 Alaska State-Operated School System villages participating, not including the B.I.A. effort which has 7 in the Yupik area.

With the policy of community based effort and decision, many Title I eligible sites planned and developed their own program. They number 15. Recently, our effort has been concentrated on the Inupiat language area and we are involved with the development and training of 11 more Eskimo sites. The total number of Native Language Instructors now working with the Alaska State-Operated School System is 65 not including all Title I village participants. The total number of villages now participating in the language program numbers 36.

We are presently working to develop additional programs in all areas this year. We have just graduated 35 Inupiat trainees at Nome. These people will go back to their village and put into practice what they have learned.

There are presently 40 ASOSS personnel and B.I.A. people being trained at Bethel in the Yupik language. They anticipate completion of the training August 10, 1973.

There is also training going on in Atka, Alaska, 4 Aleut trainees, and Huslia, Alaska, 8 trainees, all of whom should complete their training next month.

The Alaska State-Operated School System is operating

Native Language Programs in the following language areas: Yupik, Aleut, Athabascan, and Inupiat. We have used consultants, resource people, Summer Institute of Linguistics personnel and professional linguists to reach our goals of increasing self-image, academic achievement and literacy of ones own language.