



I KNOW I CAN

Designed to reach 2nd grade students, *I Know I Can* is the first part of a continuum of early outreach efforts to K-12 students in the state of Alaska. Participating schools receive books, postcards, and related take-home materials to encourage family discussion and student activities. Each child receives their very own copy of *I Know I Can*, complete with activities parents can share with their child. Through a motivational story line, children learn that postsecondary education is possible, as they begin to connect career exploration with higher education and specialized training. The *I Know I Can* program helps students build very early college and career plans, while helping them practice reading, writing, spelling, public speaking, and artistic creativity.

Partnering for Success

The *I Know I Can* program is accomplished through partnerships between schools/districts, community groups, and college alumni with a desire to inspire a college-going culture.

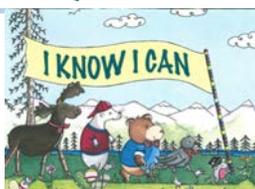
ACPE and the UA College Savings Plan: ACPE provides a statewide coordinator to oversee program structure, and recruit/train volunteers and classroom teachers to facilitate the program. The UA College Savings Plan partners with ACPE to provide the *I Know I Can* book and program materials to students and teachers.

Schools and School Districts: Teachers provide 1-hr of classroom time to read *I Know I Can* to students, help students draw pictures of career dreams on postcards, send individual books and parent survey cards home with students, and collect parent survey cards and mail them back to ACPE.

College Alumni/Community Groups: Volunteers are trained to provide a 1-hour early college awareness program, including reading and discussing *I Know I Can*, helping students draw pictures of career dreams on postcards, and encouraging students to share their career dreams in front of the class.

*Limited partnerships are available. To learn more about bringing *I Know I Can* to your school contact Shelly Morgan, K-12 Specialist, ACPE at shelly.morgan@alaska.gov or 907-269-7972.*

Applications available at acpe.alaska.gov/K-8Programs



Inspiring Students through Early Career Dreams

I Know I Can is designed to plant seeds of inspiration by encouraging children and their families to start thinking about college and career training from an early age. Research shows that children learn to think of themselves as having higher education and related career opportunities by as early as age eight. The I Know I Can program helps open children’s minds to a multitude of options available to them.

Reading the Book

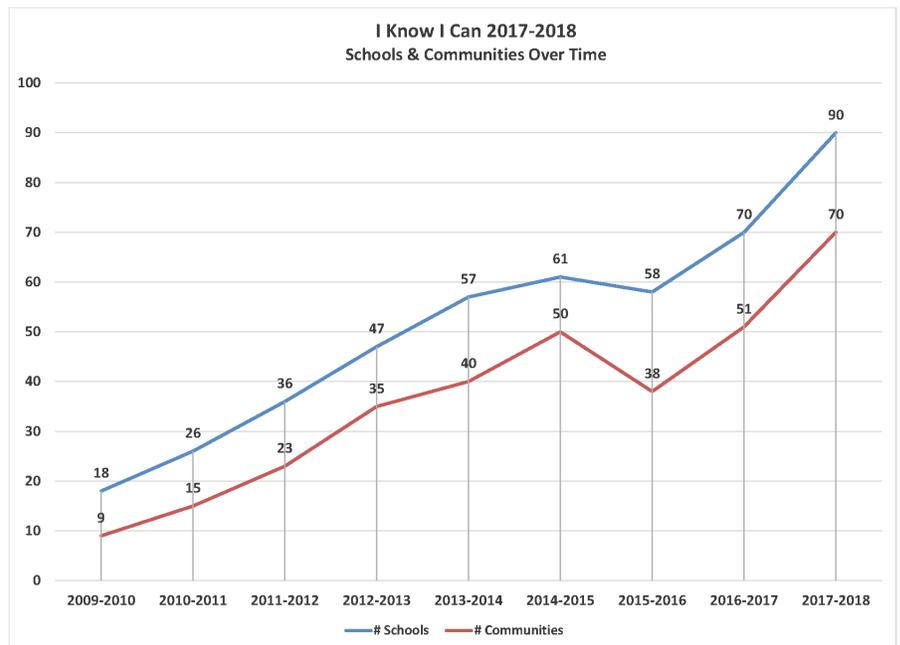
Volunteers with a variety of postsecondary education credentials (including apprenticeships, specialized occupational training from military service, as well as vocational or collegiate certificates and degrees) visit second-grade classrooms and read a book titled *I Know I Can* to the students. The age-appropriate book tells the story of a group of animal characters trying to determine what they want to be when they grow up and how college and career training fits into those plans. After reading the story, volunteers engage the students in discussion.

Postcards and Public Speaking:

Training videos are available on the ACPE website to guide volunteers and teachers in a successful program event. After the story and discussion, students return to their seats and draw pictures on postcards of their career dreams. While the students work on writing and drawing their dream jobs on postcards, volunteers talk with individual students about what they are learning in the classroom that will help prepare them for those jobs. To conclude the program, students practice their public speaking as they share their career dreams with their peers prior to taking their own copy of *I Know I Can* home. The finished postcards are mailed to students two years later as a reminder of their career dreams and next steps.

Kids2College partners in Alaska

include: Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, UA College Savings Plan, University of Alaska Statewide, school districts, and volunteers.



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