

Anchorage's New Child Care Fund

*Supporting Families, Employers,
and the Economy*



Wilder

Currently living with
Austin and Stephanie



Winston

Currently living with
Nolan and Michelle
(and Cecilia)

ANCHORAGE
CHILD CARE &
EARLY EDUCATION **FUND**



*Prepared by: Eric Croft
Make it Monday, Anchorage Chamber
January 29, 2024*

Unlike Nolan and Austin, I will not shamelessly use pictures of my cute family to make my points.

Lets stick to the merits, shall we?

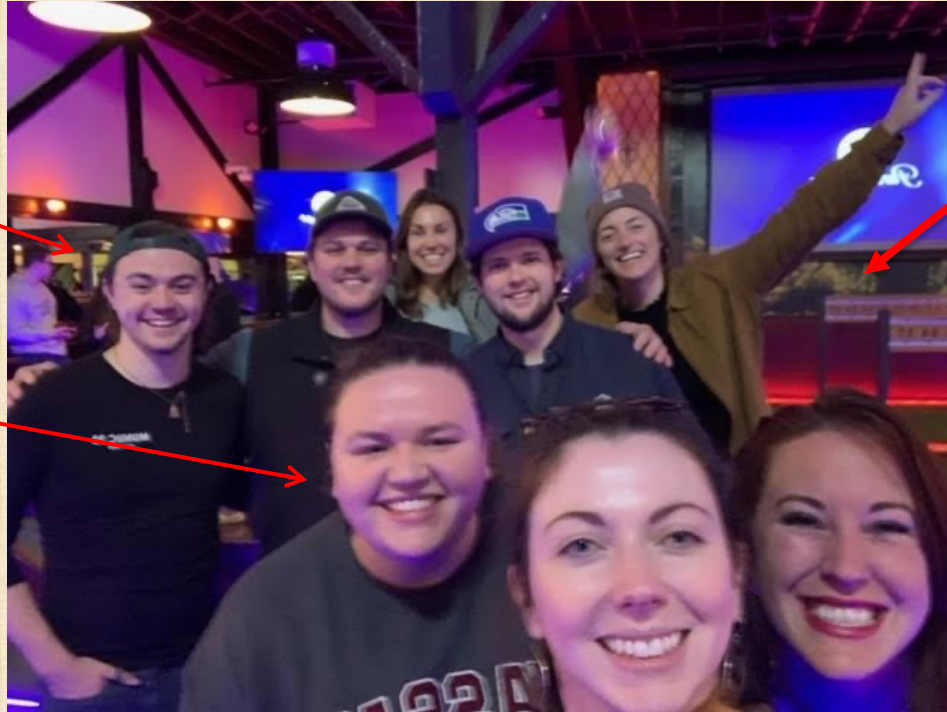
What is our Goal?

How do we get there?

Why haven't we done it?

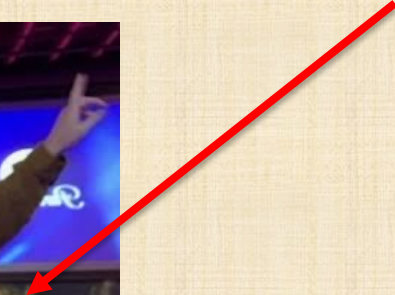
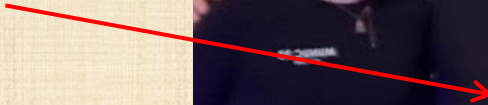
The Goal

Other fabulous
young adults



Burke

Shannon



The Goal

It doesn't have to be this.



But it is not this.



Both a human tragedy and really expensive

How do we get there?

- **Overwhelming evidence that quality early education has huge and long lasting benefits for our children**
- Not only increased reading and math scores
- Greater income and civic participation
- Lower dropout and prison rates
- Even better health (sound strange?)
- Significant ROI for Government

Given these benefits and return for our money, we must provide consistent and adequate federal or state funding for pre-k and child care, right?

Right?

Hello?

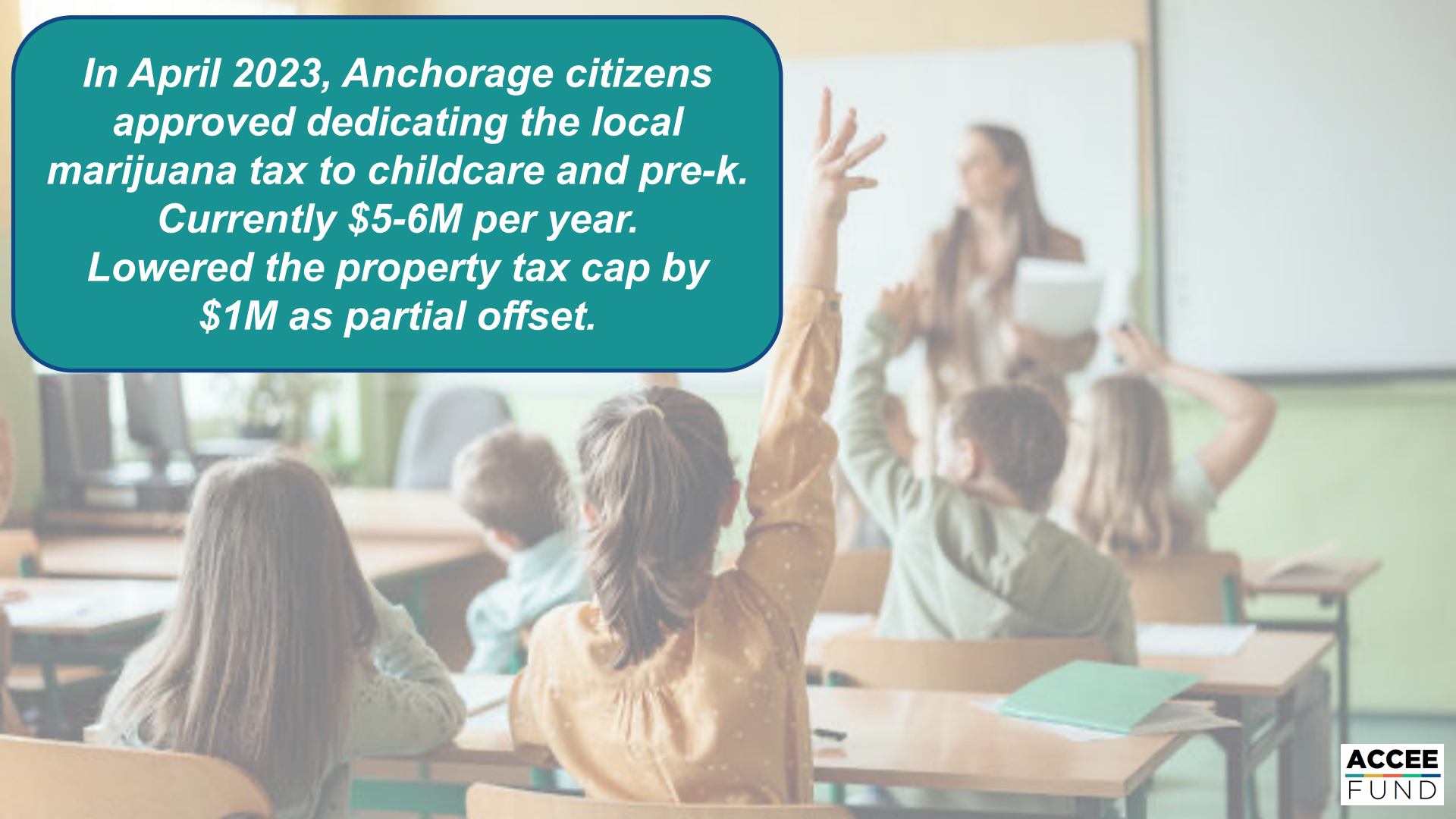
Why don't we fund pre-k and childcare?



*Are our policy makers stupid?
Evil?
Both?
Or is there something about the budget system?*

*What about the public?
Turns out, we had never asked the public if they wanted to
spend more to fund pre-k.*

In April 2023, Anchorage citizens approved dedicating the local marijuana tax to childcare and pre-k. Currently \$5-6M per year. Lowered the property tax cap by \$1M as partial offset.



This is the first significant and consistent funding for early childhood education in Anchorage.



So now what? We would like your help.

Help define the scope of efforts

Help us stretch our money

Help us partner with businesses



ACCEE
FUND

*Shameless use of children.
Intergenerational Trauma?*



alaska children's trust



ACCEE
FUND