



Teaching and Living in Alaska: [Alaska Teacher Placement](#)

Gear – “Layers, Layers, Layers”

- Rubber Boots/Neoprene –insulated or uninsulated tall boots (with layered sock)
  - Favorite Alaska brand insulated Muk boots – they can be both winter and spring boot
- Winter boots – rated to 20 or below
- Jeans, sweatshirts, comfortable layers, long johns, warm socks (wool)
- Snow pants or bibs – a waterproof shell or insulated will do as long as you can layer
- Winter coat – layers fitting loosely under it is very helpful
- Rain gear – gortex coat and pants
- Hat(s). winter gloves and glove liners, mittens if you have them
- Loaner gear – Quality gear is expensive. If you don’t have something ask! We have or can get loaner gear.



School Clothes

- Tennis shoes are okay
- A professional look – jeans and leggings can be professional here
- Look at the schools Facebook page and see how other teachers dress

Travel - You will fly Alaska Air, if possible, from the hub of your choice

- Become an [Alaska Airlines member](#) and [Club 49](#)
  - Use the schools address so that you can travel with two large (<50lbs) suitcases and one small roller bag
  - Conservative packing, the majority of clothing and gear should travel with you for your 11 week adventure.



Shipping/Shopping

- Become an [Amazon Prime student](#) member - free for 6-months
- Ship ALL items to the school address by mid- December
- Travel with two large suitcases for essential and gear
- Use USPS – ONLY – priority boxes (up to 70lbs per box) – Do not use UPS or Fed Ex
- Anything you need feel you need to purchase prior to arriving in Anchorage use your Amazon Prime membership for free shipping
  - Complete your prime shopping by mid-December
- Anchorage Orientation
  - All food for 11 – weeks can be purchased in Anchorage (this is recommended)
  - Any essentials you need to purchase, can be purchased in Anchorage (this is also recommended over the use of Amazon Prime or lower 48 shopping)
  - We use freight carriers to get items to your community from Anchorage
  - Prime is useful for items you forgot while you are at your site
  - Used (Anchorage) clothing stores can also be a source for cheap gear if you don’t have some gear, rather than buying new
- \*\*Don’t over buy! It is recommended to wait for Anchorage orientation or ask if you are unsure\*\*



Medical

- Every community has a limited clinic. Dillingham has a hospital, and Anchorage is just a flight away.
- Medications: It is recommended if there are medications you need, bring a 11-week or longer supply

Communications

- Internet is available at the school. However, the bandwidth for an entire school is the similar to a single home in the lower 48. Streaming is not a real option. There will be lots of movies and tv shows available to borrow from others
- Internet at the apartments – You may be able to share with another teacher in a duplex/shared living situations by helping with the bill.
- Phone – [GCI](#) is the only cell service that works in rural Alaska
  - A simple phone (\$70) and nationwide call/text plan (\$40/month) – Verizon phones will work with a GCI sim card
  - Calling cards is a cheap solution
  - Skype and video calling will work at the school after school hours
- Television - Requires a satellite dish. Service is expensive, most teachers go without.
  - You will be provided a laptop and cd drive to watch movies or tv shows



Bank

- There are no banks. You will need to set up direct deposit and have a debit card or credit card to use. Cash is not necessary in rural communities