

Comments on PSYPACT

House Labor and Commerce Committee Meeting
March 4, 2026

Presented by:
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Executive Director
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About us

Alaska Psychological Association is one of 60 state, provincial and territorial psychological associations connected to the American Psychological Association.

AK-PA has a working relationship with the state Licensing Board. Their primary mission is to protect the public, whereas AK-PA's purpose is to provide continuing education and advocacy that helps members advance their careers and be successful in their clinical practice.

Mission

Advancing psychology as a science, profession, and as a means for promoting human welfare in Alaska

AK-PA Membership

There are approximately 325 psychologists with an active license in Alaska (DOC/Professional Licensing)

AK-PA Members located in the larger cities and the municipalities in the state

- 150 members, of which 66 (44%) are licensed psychologists
- Membership includes diversity of behavioral health professionals including:
 - Licensed Psychologists
 - Licensed Psychological Associates
 - Licensed Professional Counselors
 - Licensed Social Workers
 - Non-clinical affiliates
 - Students



PSYPACT

Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact

Where we stand on PSYPACT

- PSYPACT has been on the AK-PA legislative agenda for the past 2 years.
- Past AK-PA boards have been supportive of PSYPACT overall but had not made a statement of endorsement
- The current AK-PA Board began deep discussions on the pros and cons of PSYPACT and decided to poll the membership before making an official statement.
- PSYPACT is not perfect and not a silver bullet
- Alaska is one of 3 states with PSYPACT Legislation introduced in 2026
- 41 states are in the compact with 39 fully active

Acknowledged limitations on PSYPACT

There are 6 pathways to obtain an e-passport that allows one to practice across state lines

1. Possession of a doctoral degree in psychology from an institution of higher education that was, at the time the degree was awarded or within 18 months of the time the degree was conferred accredited by the American Psychological Association, the Canadian Psychological Association, or designated as a psychology program by the Joint Designation Committee of the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards and the National Register of Health Service Psychologists.
2. Possession of verification of a cohesive program of re-specialization from a training program that at the time the re-specialization was completed had a degree program that was accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) or the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) and took courses within that program and that included a minimum of 1,500 hours in a supervised internship.
3. Possession of international transcripts/training whose program, college, or university is deemed equivalent to doctoral training in the United States of America by an international credential evaluation service member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation Services (NACES).

Acknowledged limitations on PSYPACT

4. Possession of a Certificate of Professional Qualification (CPQ[®]) **AND** have been continuously licensed (active or inactive) for 15 years to practice psychology at the independent level in one or more ASPPB member jurisdictions based on a doctoral degree in psychology conferred before January 1, 2000, from a regionally accredited institution.
5. You have been continuously licensed (active or inactive) to practice psychology at the independent level in one or more ASPPB member jurisdictions before January 1, 1985, based on a doctoral degree in psychology from a regionally accredited institution.
6. Possession of a doctoral degree in psychology that meets the criteria as outlined in the Mobility Program Policies and Procedures Manual.

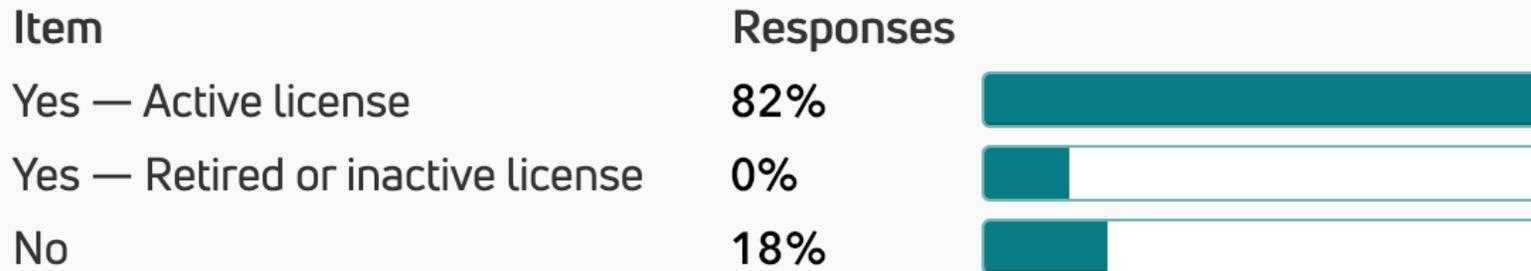
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- PSYPACT does not apply to Licensed Psychological Associates (Master's level program)
 - APA has not yet established an accredited Master's Program in Psychology
 - 17 to 23 states have a licensed psychologist at the master's level

Survey Says

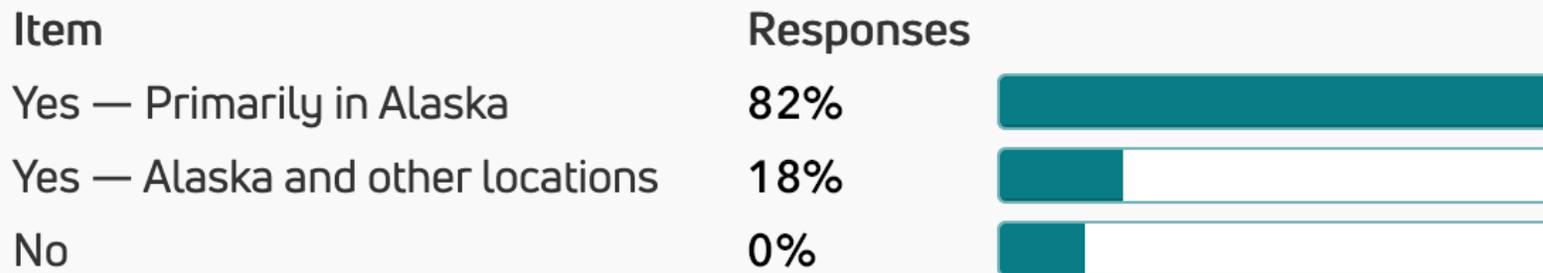
Data provided for this presentation is from the first 5 days of polling our membership.

Polling will extend through the end of March.

1. Are you currently licensed as a psychologist in Alaska?



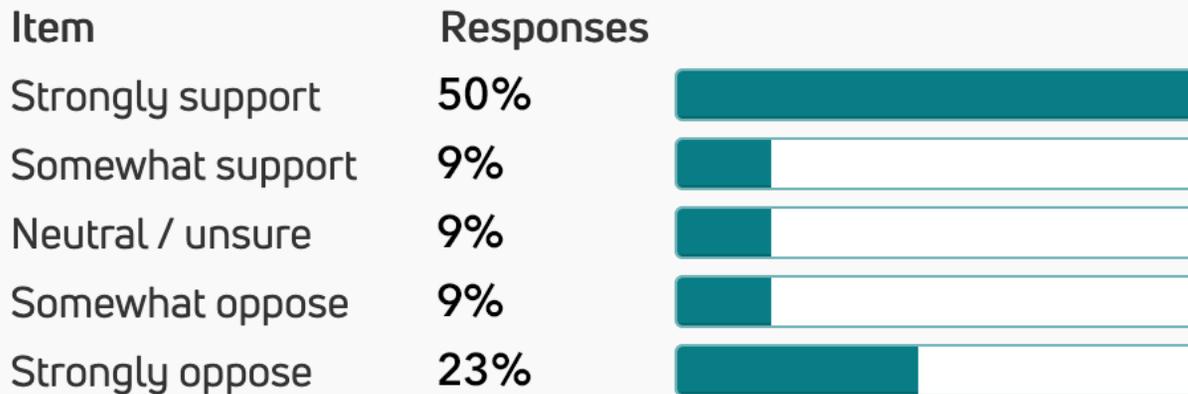
2. Do you currently provide services to patients located in Alaska?



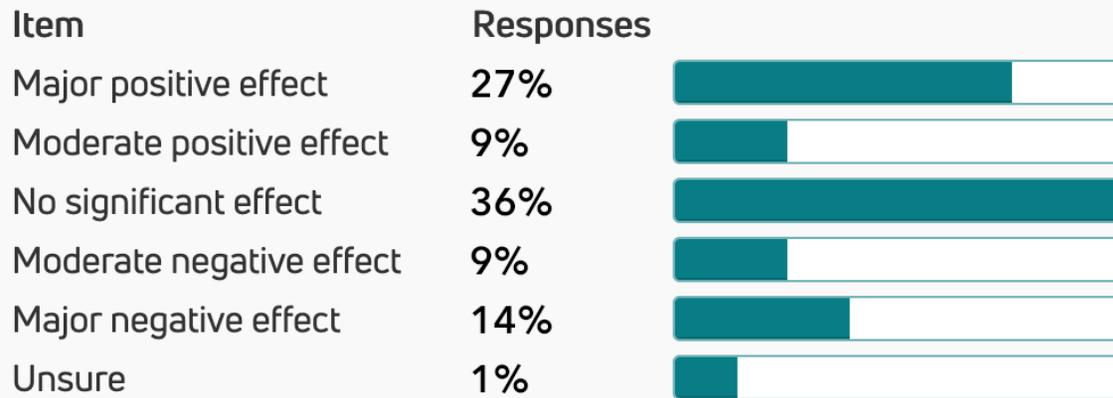
3. Was your doctoral program APA- or CPA-accredited at the time of graduation?



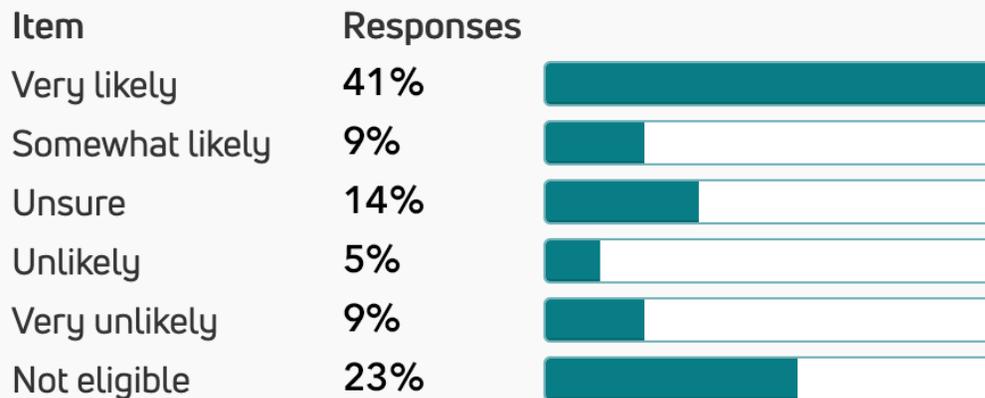
4. Do you support Alaska adopting PSYPACT?



5. If Alaska joined PSYPACT, what effect would it have on your practice?



6. How likely would you be to participate in PSYPACT if eligible?



7. Which potential benefit is MOST important?



8. Which concern is MOST important?

Item

Responses

Reduced oversight of out-of-state providers

14%



Enforcement of Alaska laws/standards

5%



Insurance reimbursement issues

18%



Competition from out-of-state providers

14%



Impact on local practices

0%



Cultural competence concerns

18%



Exclusion of non-APA/CPA graduates

23%



No major concerns

9%



Unsure

0%



Comments

In Favor:

I already hold a PSYPACT License from when I lived in another state but have not used it since moving to Alaska. I found PSYPACT helpful for patients who were traveling and needed continuity of care or when working with people who moved out of state, especially college students who were away for parts of the year.

I think that there are positives and negatives with PSYPACT, but that overall, it is beneficial for patients and providers. Efforts need to be made to understand different law/regulations when working across state lines, but doing this is manageable if only seeing a few out-of-state patients, adding states one at a time, and not trying to do too much.

For me, the primary benefit would be continuity of care, not just for patients who permanently relocate to the lower 48, including military families, but also for patients who spend large amounts of the year in Alaska and also substantial amounts of the year elsewhere: snowbirds, oil industry folks, and others.

Comments

Opposed

The Alaska Board of Psychologists would not be able to enforce various laws and provisions that may be required for Alaskans.

The State of Alaska would bear the costs for licensure complaints without remuneration.

Alaska Pacific University would never be able to qualify for APA accreditation, and — if it does — all its graduates until then would never be able to join PSYPACT because their program wasn't APA accredited.

AK-PA's Next steps

The AK-PA Board will review the data collected by their March 11th board meeting and make a statement of support or non-support, or choose to wait until the the survey ends at the end of March.

Schedule a townhall meeting featuring Dr Orwig of PSYPACT to educate Alaska psychologists on the compact. (Record the meeting for those who are not able to attend.)



Questions

Thank you

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