



EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM STAFF REQUIREMENTS

The following is guidance for an Alaska District-Wide Early Education Program (EEP) for meeting the laws, regulations, roles, and responsibilities of the staff required to run a District-Wide Early Education Program.

AK Reads Act Early Education Lead Teacher

Laws and Regulations

The Alaska Reads Act statute and state regulations require all approved District-Wide Early Education programs have a Lead Teacher who meets the following criteria for the AK Reads Act Early Education Lead Teacher endorsement:

- Hold a valid Alaska teacher certification and **EITHER**
 - Have already completed or, within two years of the teacher's hire by the school district, 6 credits in early childhood education, 3 of which must be in a DEED-approved evidence-based early childhood literacy training program

OR

- 2 or more years of experience teaching kindergarten or in an early education program **AND** successful completion of a DEED-approved evidence-based reading training program.

AS 14.07.165(B) and 4 AAC 12.392

Roles and Responsibilities

The Teacher-In-Charge, or Early Education Lead Teacher, monitors and supports the EEP classrooms' adherence to Alaska's Early Education Program Standards. The Early Education Lead Teacher may monitor and support a total of four classrooms; this number includes their own classroom if they are acting in the role of classroom teacher.

An Early Education Lead Teacher may support up to four classrooms. They must provide two consultations each month for each classroom. These consultations must include a minimum of three on-site consultations per school year. The remainder of the consultations may be on-site or delivered via virtual methods.

Every district must have at least one endorsed AK Reads Act Early Education Lead Teacher.



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Classroom Teacher

Laws and Regulations

Alaska regulation 4 AAC 12.300 requires that “a teacher in a public school must be at least 18 years of age and must hold a valid teacher certificate issued under this chapter unless the teacher is participating in an approved exchange program under 4 AAC 30.010.”

Roles and Responsibilities

The classroom teacher provides the lesson planning, child intervention planning, and response to individual and classroom student needs. The teacher may be present in the classroom providing instruction, or they may be a teacher who is not present in the classroom but is directing the work of the paraprofessionals/teacher’s aides working in the District-Wide Early Education Program classroom.

It is best practice to have a certified teacher in the classroom providing instruction to students.

Paraprofessional/Teacher’s Aide

Laws and Regulations

Alaska regulation 4 AAC 04.220 requires paraprofessionals have a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent. In addition, there are eight abilities listed in part one of the regulation.

Roles and Responsibilities

Follow-through on the lesson plans, child interventions, and planned responses to individual and classroom needs outlined by the classroom teacher.

Classroom Staffing Requirements

- AK Early Education Program Standards mandate two staff be present in the classroom (Standard I.b.)



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