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## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Twelve More Schools Recognized as Alaska Reward Schools

JUNEAU – The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development has recognized 12 additional public schools as 2014-2015 Reward Schools to honor their student performance from the 2013-2014 school year. In October, the department recognized 41 Reward Schools.

The designation is part of Alaska's school accountability system, which identifies schools in need of support and recognizes schools that are the highest performing or show the most growth in student achievement. All of the 12 newly designated Reward Schools are in the Highest Performing category.

They are: Dot Lake School in the Alaska Gateway School District; Bear Valley Elementary, Eagle Academy Charter School, and Northern Lights ABC K-8 School in the Anchorage School District; Dillingham Correspondence School; Sidney C. Huntington Elementary in the Galena School District; Chapman School, Kaleidoscope School of Arts & Science, and Moose Pass School in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District; Anvil City Science Academy and Extensions Correspondence in the Nome School District; and Port Alexander School in the Southeast Island School District.

To qualify for Reward status as a highest-performing school:

- the school must be in the top 10 percent of schools in its grade configuration (K-8, 9-12, or K-12) based on its score under the Alaska School Performance Index (explained below);
- over the two most recent years, the school must have a graduation rate that averaged at least 85 percent, if it has 12<sup>th</sup>-graders; and
- over the two most recent years, the school must have met its goal for increasing the percentage of students who are proficient in reading, writing, and math, for the student body as a whole and all subgroups of students.

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The Alaska School Performance Index measures schools by a combination of data: student achievement on the state’s reading, writing and math assessments; growth in the school’s student body in those assessments from the prior year; and attendance. Schools with high school students also are measured by graduation rates; student performance on college-ready and career-ready assessments such as the SAT, ACT, and WorkKeys; and students’ participation rate in the WorkKeys assessment.

The news release for the initial group of schools identified as Reward Schools is at [http://education.alaska.gov/news/releases/2014/41\\_Recognized\\_Alaska\\_Reward\\_Schools.pdf](http://education.alaska.gov/news/releases/2014/41_Recognized_Alaska_Reward_Schools.pdf)

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