

# Foundation Formula Funding for Early Education Program Students

Since 2023, district-wide early education programs may be approved by the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) to count preschool students for formula funding [[Sec 14.17.500\(d\)](#)].

- DEED must approve a district-wide early education program based on the eligibility criteria described below [[Sec 14.07.020\(a\)\(8\)](#)].
- Early Education Program students 4- and 5-years of age will be counted at a rate of one-half of a full-time student or 0.5 average daily membership (ADM) [[Sec 14.17.500\(d\)](#)].
- Districts may include early education students in the fall OASIS count for formula funding in the same year they are approved.

This funding source is commonly referred to as 0.5 ADM, EEP-ADM, and early education ADM aid.

## Funding Structure

Annual legislative appropriation [[Sec 14.17.500\(f\)](#)].

Statute establishes a statewide limitation on the total amount of early education ADM aid that may be generated from one year to the next. When the total eligible amount across all approved districts exceeds that statutory growth limit and the available appropriation, the department is not authorized to fully fund every approved district. When funding is insufficient, distribution must be prioritized using each district's state accountability index score, which is a composite performance measure derived from statewide assessment results, student growth, graduation indicators, and related accountability metrics.

## Approval Process

DEED uses two avenues to identify and approve districts that meet eligibility requirements:

- Early Education Program Grant
- EEP-ADM Application

Fully approved districts meet all eligibility criteria. They may include early education program students in the student count for a three-year period. They will re-apply every three years via a short-form reapplication process [[4 AAC 60.210\(i\)](#)].

Conditionally approved districts are working towards meeting all eligibility criteria. They may include early education program students in the student count, however, they will re-apply annually until fully approval.

## Eligibility

To be approved, districts will:

- Successfully implement the [Alaska Early Education Program Standards](#) [Sec 14.07.165(a)(5)(A)]; and
- Employ early education teacher(s) with the required and current teacher certification, including the Alaska Reads Act Early Education Lead endorsement [Sec 14.07.165(a)(5)(B)].
  - See [Teacher Certification](#)
  - See [Teacher Certification: Available Endorsements](#)
  - See [Alaska Reads Act Endorsements: Alaska Reads Act Early Education Lead](#)
  - [Early Education Program Staffing Guidance](#)

See additional guidance at [Early Learning: Alaska Reads Act](#).

## EEP-ADM Application Timeline

- Application released annually
- **Applications due May 15**
- Applicants notified of approval on or before September 1.

***Notice: Timeline will change for FY28. Application for FY28, will be due the last Friday in January 2027.***

## Application Materials and Resources

- FY27 application for approval to count early education program students for formula funding (EEP-ADM Application) to be released late March 2026.

Contact [jayne.mcfarland@alaska.gov](mailto:jayne.mcfarland@alaska.gov) or (907) 269-7974 for additional information.

## Current 0.5 ADM Recipients

### Starting Fall 2023

Anchorage S.D.

### Starting Fall 2024

Skagway City S.D.

Valdez City S.D.

### Starting Fall 2025

Annette Island S.D.

Bering Strait S.D.

Chatham S.D.

Fairbanks North Star Borough S.D.

Kenai Borough S.D.

Ketchikan Gateway Borough S.D.

Matanuska Susitna Borough S.D.

North Slope Borough S.D.

Petersburg S.D.

Southeast Island S.D.