

A graphic of a spotlight shining from the top left towards the center of the page.

Alaska School SPOTLIGHT

Bering Strait School District August 2023

This month DEED is highlighting Bering Strait School District. Take a look at their commitment and how they've requested community involvement for assistance to increase attendance, and overall reading achievement, in their school district.

A word from Susan R Nedza, Chief School Administrator:

In Bering Strait School District we are working to amplify the message that ATTENDANCE and READING are very important. We have begun a marketing campaign to spread the word via our own facebook pages, direct mailings, postings in all 15 communities, partnerships with tribal organizations, city and corporation entities, Norton Sound Health and more. This marketing campaign includes information on both attendance and reading. This effort has been well received so far and we are thankful for the resources available through the Alaska Reading Resources website to make information accessible.

Please see on the following pages the documents shared from Bering Strait School District. These are great examples of ways to share out to stakeholders and provide information to families.



Bering Strait School District



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Susan R Nedza, Chief School Administrator
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August 9, 2023

Community Partners:

We are asking for help in starting and continuing community conversations around school attendance and literacy. We are working hard to make our schools a positive place that everyone feels welcome and comes ready to learn each day. Our focus is on EVERY STUDENT EVERY DAY ON TIME and on LITERACY. Students who attend every day and learn to read are better students, better future workers, and better community members.

We know we can't do this alone and are asking for community organizations to post information and make time to talk about ATTENDANCE and LITERACY at each meeting or event. Tri-org, City Council, IRA, and other meetings are great places to discuss these issues and find ways to support student growth.

Some communities already set and enforce curfews during the school year, provide incentives or raffles for students with high attendance and reading skills, use report cards or school communication to admit or not admit folks to games or events.

Any ways that communities can spotlight the importance of school and help us form partnerships that work are greatly appreciated.

Thank You,



Susan R Nedza
Chief School Administrator

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Missing a day of school here and there may not seem like much, but absences add up!

When a student misses **2** days a month..

They will miss 20 DAYS a year.

They will miss 30 HOURS of math over the school year.

They will miss 60 HOURS of reading & writing over the school year.

They will miss over 1 YEAR of school by graduation.

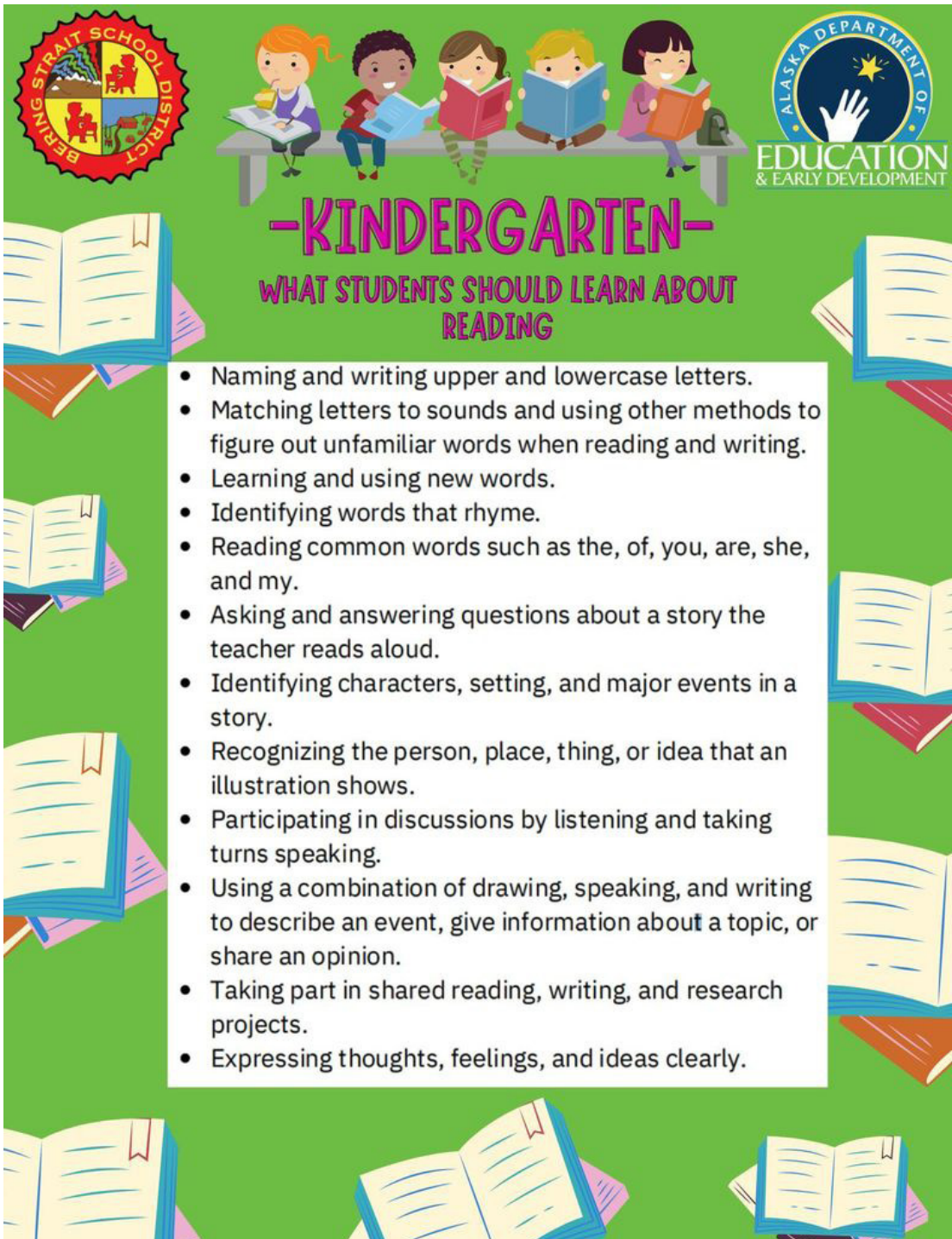
When a student misses **4** days a month..



They will miss 40 DAYS a year.

They will miss 60 HOURS of math over the school year.

They will miss 120 HOURS of reading & writing over the school year.

They will miss over 2 YEARS of school by graduation.

The poster features a green background with illustrations of five diverse children sitting on a bench reading books. In the top left is the circular logo for the Bering Strait School District, and in the top right is the logo for the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development, which includes a hand holding a star. The title is written in large, pink, outlined letters. A central white box contains a bulleted list of learning standards. The background is decorated with several open books of various colors.

-KINDERGARTEN-

WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD LEARN ABOUT READING

- Naming and writing upper and lowercase letters.
- Matching letters to sounds and using other methods to figure out unfamiliar words when reading and writing.
- Learning and using new words.
- Identifying words that rhyme.
- Reading common words such as the, of, you, are, she, and my.
- Asking and answering questions about a story the teacher reads aloud.
- Identifying characters, setting, and major events in a story.
- Recognizing the person, place, thing, or idea that an illustration shows.
- Participating in discussions by listening and taking turns speaking.
- Using a combination of drawing, speaking, and writing to describe an event, give information about a topic, or share an opinion.
- Taking part in shared reading, writing, and research projects.
- Expressing thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly.



-FIRST GRADE- WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD LEARN ABOUT READING

- Reading stories and showing they understand the story's lesson or moral.
- Asking and answering questions about a story, including characters, setting, and major events.
- Comparing and contrasting the experiences of different characters.
- Identifying the reasons an author gives to support a point.
- Explaining differences between texts that tell stories and texts that provide information.
- Participating in class discussions by listening, responding to what others are saying, and asking questions.
- Describing people, places, things, and events; expressing feelings and ideas clearly.
- Learning basic rules of spoken and written English.
- Working with others to gather facts and information on a topic.
- Writing to describe an event, provide information on a topic, or share an opinion.

Thank you BSSD for sharing about all of this hard work, and congratulations on your amazing journey toward reading proficiency for all students! DEED appreciates you sharing your story!

Has your school proven great success increasing student reading proficiency utilizing evidence-based curriculum and materials? Do you have something you are really excited about as an outcome of a shift to Science of Reading best practices? We are interested in hearing what amazing things are happening in your school to positively impact student reading proficiency and achievement. Please submit your story to the e-mail below. You may be chosen as the next school spotlight in a future edition of the Alaska Reading Newsletter!

Please e-mail your submissions or questions to: Jenn.Miller@alaska.gov

You can view the 2022-2023 School Year Alaska School Spotlights here:

<https://education.alaska.gov/Alaska-Reading-Resources/alaska-school-spotlights>