

Teacher Certification

Processes, Partnerships, and Progress

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Today's Topics

- Historical context of teacher certification in Alaska
- Digital transformation: TEACH-AK launch
- District support: District Communication Hub
- Teacher Certification Team
- Key highlights and metrics
- Alaska Reads Act & endorsement data
- Looking Forward



Teacher Certification

Statehood



- Certification authority transferred to the Alaska Department of Education.
- Formal certificate types established

1912

Territorial Era

- Certification overseen by the U.S. Office of Education.
- Basic requirements: moral character and instructional ability.



1959



- Online renewals available online via a basic webform/email process.
- Other application types still required paper submission.

1980s - 1990s

Regulatory Updates

- Required coursework added (e.g., Alaska Studies, Multicultural Education).
- Standardized tests (e.g., Praxis) introduced.
- Certificate renewal and continuing professional development requirements implemented.

Partial Digitization

2010



- Feedback drives system enhancements.
- Professional learning provided for applicants, districts, and certification analysts to ensure clarity and consistency.

2023

TEACH-AK & District Communication Hub

- TEACH-AK is an online certification and application system. Applicants can submit applications, upload documents, track status, and communicate online.
- The District Communication Hub provides real-time access to applications and certificates of the educators employed by the district.



2025

Enhancements and Support

Digital Transformation

The Educator Application & Certification Hub Alaska (TEACH-AK)

- 2023- Soft launch of TEACH-AK (Renewals only)
- 2024 - Full Launch (all applications)
- Streamlined application processing
 - Automatic emails
 - Review and update of back office systems
 - Updated review process to improve efficiency/processing times



- 10,148 TEACH-AK applicant accounts created
- 5,088 applications processed
- Processing time reduced:
16 weeks → 4 weeks
(as of May 2025)

The District Communication Hub (DCH)

- Launched in Fall 2024
- Secure portal for district HR staff
- Enables real-time certification status checks of district employees
- Districts can view documents that were submitted by applicants and correspondence sent to the applicant
- Access to information in the DCH provides districts with the information needed to provide additional support and feedback to new hires



- 135 District Communication Hub accounts have been created
- 45 districts represented
(as of May 2025)

New Systems



Over 15 new internal certification processes to support our customers

- Application workflow in TEACH-AK
- Correspondence with applicants
- Financial process
- Professional Teaching Practices Commission processes
- Streamlined second review process
- Collaboration with Retirement and Benefits
- Customer support offered via video conference
- Using SMART goals to focus the team's time efficiently and drive continuous process improvement

and more...

Teacher Certification Team

- Review and process applications
- Communicate with applicants and districts
- Monitor regulatory compliance
- Educate users on certification pathways
- Support adding endorsements (e.g., AK Reads Act)
- Provide excellent customer service



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Teacher Certification Data

- 12 available teacher certificates
 - 6 Regular Teacher Certificates
 - 6 District Sponsored Teacher Certificates
- 12,421 active teacher certificates
- 6,858 teaching positions

June 1, 2024 – June 1, 2025

- 5,088 applications processed
- 2,191 certificates renewed
- 2,834 AK Reads Act endorsements added
- Reduced the 16 week processing time to 4 weeks

Alaska Reads Act Endorsements

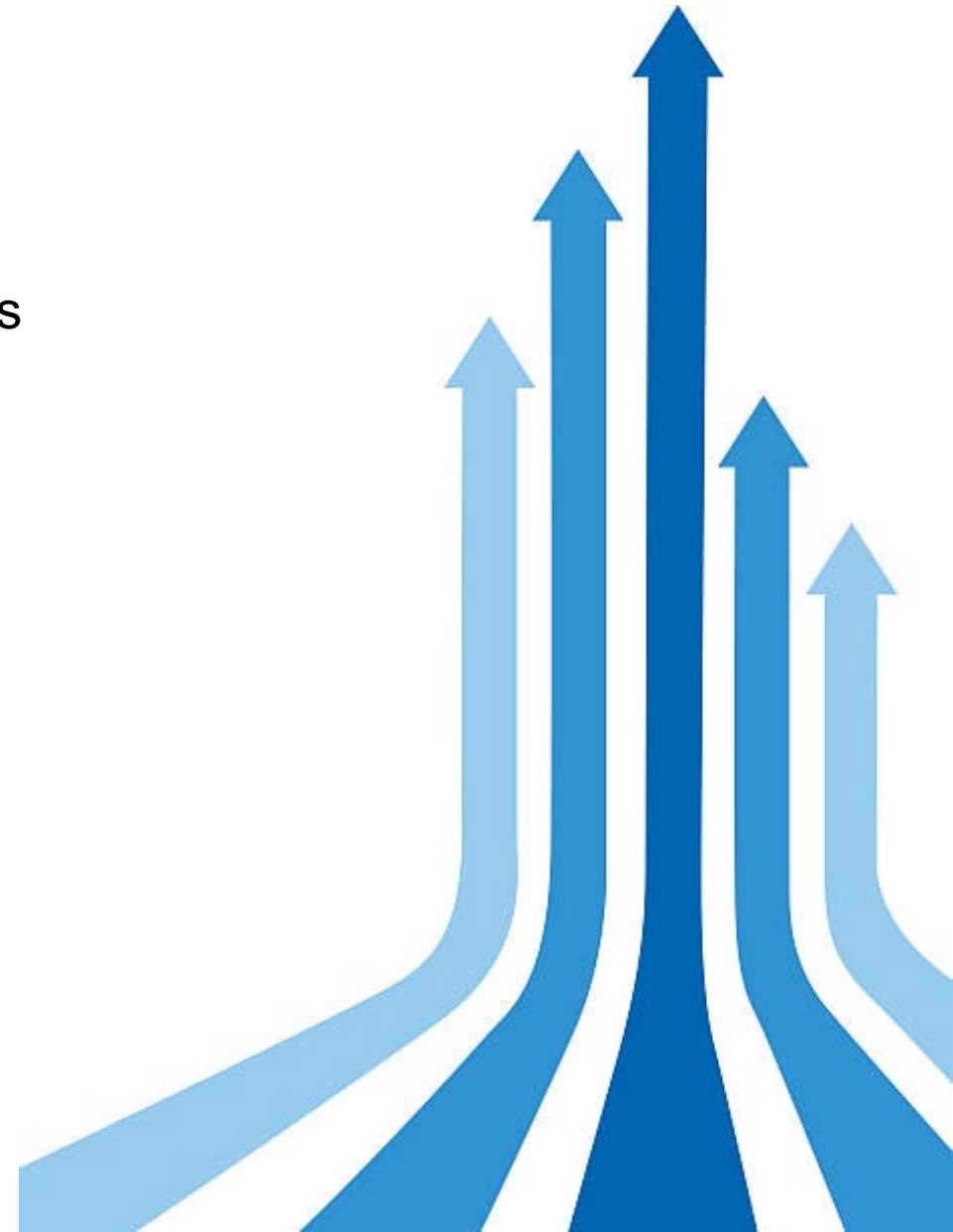
Endorsement Type	Count
AK Reads Act K–3 Teacher	2,413
AK Reads Act K–3 Administrator	391
AK Reads Act Reading Teacher	89
AK Reads Act Early Ed Lead	39
Total	2,932
Active	2,788
Pending Renewal/Extension	144

Active & Pending Endorsements (as of June 1, 2025)



Looking Forward

- Continue improvements in system automation
- Expand training and support for applicants and districts
- Monitor policy impact (e.g., Reads Act)
- Renewal credit support
 - University Credit
 - Continuing Education Units
 - Non-Academic Credit
 - Mico-credentials
- Strengthen interdepartmental collaboration



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Questions?

