

# Alaska's Education Challenge

## DRAFT Strategic Plan SMART Goals

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development  
Deena Bishop, Ed.D., Commissioner, Member Kathryn McCollum,  
Military Advisor Lt Col James Fowley, Member Pamela Dupras,  
Vice Chair James Fields, and Member Barbara Tyndall

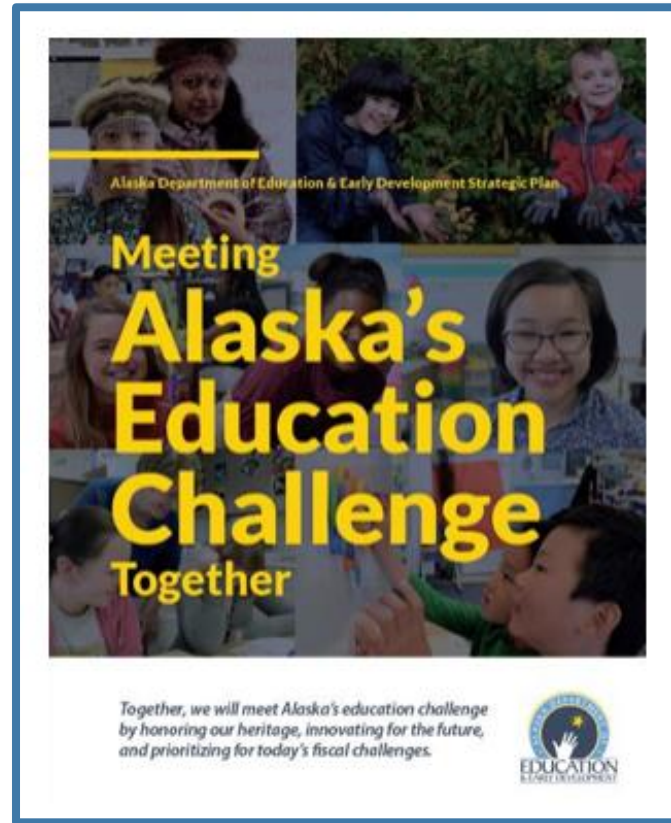
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# Mission, Vision, and Purpose

Mission	Vision	Purpose
An excellent education for every student every day.	All students will succeed in their education and work, shape worthwhile and satisfying lives for themselves, exemplify the best values of society, and be effective in improving the character and quality of the world about them. - Alaska Statute 14.03.015	DEED exists to provide <b>information, resources, and leadership</b> to support an excellent education for every student every day.

# Alaska's Education Challenge



## Five Shared Strategic Priorities:

1. Support all students to read at grade level by the end of third grade.
2. Increase career, technical, and culturally relevant education to meet student and workforce needs.
3. Close the achievement gap by ensuring equitable educational rigor and resources.
4. Prepare, attract, and retain effective education professionals.
5. Improve the safety and well-being of students through school partnerships with families, communities, and tribes.

# Alaska's Education Challenge

2016

The State Board of Education established five strategic priorities to improve outcomes for Alaska students

2017

Alaska's Education Challenge (AEC) launched through statewide collaboration and public engagement

Nearly 1,400 Alaskans from 109 communities contributed more than 18,000 ideas to inform the work

2026

Since 2017, AEC has served as the state's framework for continuous educational improvement



# *Alaska's Education Challenge*

## Reviewing Progress and Setting the Next Direction

### 2025

The SBOE initiated a comprehensive review of the Alaska Education Challenge

- SBOE committees reviewed statewide data, implementation efforts, and outcomes across each strategic priority
- The review identified areas of progress as well as the need for stronger alignment, accountability, and measurable impact

### 2026

In January 2026, the SBOE reaffirmed its commitment to the five strategic priorities through formal resolution

- SBOE directed DEED to develop a strategic plan with clear, measurable three-year SMART goals

# *Alaska's Education Challenge*

## **From Strategic Priorities to Measurable Outcomes**

- This strategic plan builds on the foundation of the Alaska Education Challenge and shifts the focus from broad statewide priorities to measurable outcomes
- Each strategic priority now includes defined three-year SMART goals grounded in statewide data and aligned to student outcome measures
- The goals are intended to strengthen statewide alignment, guide implementation efforts, and support continuous improvement across Alaska's education system
- Progress toward each goal will be monitored through clearly defined measures to support accountability and inform future decision-making

# Strategic Priority 1

*Support ALL students to read at grade level by the end of third grade.*

Committee Leader | Member Kathryn McCollum



## **K–3 Literacy Benchmark Achievement | FY2027–FY2029**

The number of Kindergarten-Grade 3 students performing at or above benchmark on the literacy screener will increase by 10 percent from the End-of-Year 2026 baseline by End-of-Year 2029, as measured by the mCLASS DIBELS 8 Curriculum-Based Measures.



## **Grade 3 Literacy Proficiency | FY2027–FY2029**

The number of Grade 3 students scoring proficient or above in English Language Arts (ELA) will increase by five percent from the Spring 2026 baseline by Spring 2029, as measured by the Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR).

# Strategic Priority 2

*Increase career, technical, and culturally relevant education to meet student and workforce needs.*

Committee Leader | Military Advisor Lt Col James Fowley



## **Perkins CTE Concentrators | FY2027–FY2029**

High school students who complete two credits of Perkins-approved CTE courses in a program of study (CTE concentrators) will increase by 25 percent over three years from the 2026 baseline by 2029, as reported in the Carl Perkins All-In-One Reports and Summer OASIS submissions.



## **Alaska Performance Scholarship | FY2027–FY2029**

High school graduates eligible for the Alaska Performance Scholarship through Option B, which includes 2 credits of CTE coursework, will increase by six percent from the 2026 baseline by 2029, as reported in the Summer OASIS submissions.

# Strategic Priority 3

*Close the achievement gap by ensuring equitable educational rigor and resources.*

Committee Leader | Member Pamela Dupras



## **Literacy** | *FY2027–FY2029*

The number of Grade 3-9 students scoring proficient or above in English Language Arts (ELA) will increase by six percent from the Spring 2026 baseline by Spring 2029, as measured by the Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR).



## **Mathematics** | *FY2027–FY2029*

The number of Grade 3-9 students scoring proficient or above in Mathematics will increase by six percent from the Spring 2026 baseline by Spring 2029, as measured by the Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR).

# Strategic Priority 4

*Prepare, attract, and retain effective education professionals.*

Committee Leader | Vice Chair James Fields



## **Education Career Pathway Participation | FY2027–FY2029**

High school seniors who complete two consecutive Perkins-approved Career and Technical Education courses or an approved dual credit sequence within an Education career pathway will increase by 25 percent over three years from the 2026 baseline by 2029, as reported in the district Carl Perkins All-In-One Reports and the Career and Technical Student Organization report.



## **Educator Apprenticeship Enrollment | FY2027–FY2029**

Educators participating in either a U.S. Department of Labor-approved apprenticeship pathway or the Green to Teach pathway to certification will increase by 25 percent over three years from the 2026 baseline by 2029, as reported to the Alaska Office of Apprenticeship and DEED.

# Strategic Priority 5

*Improve the safety and well-being of students through school partnerships with families, communities, and tribes.*

Committee Leader | Member Barbara Tyndall



## **Bullying and Harassment Reduction | FY2027–FY2029**

The percentage of students involved in bullying, harassment, and cyberbullying incidents resulting in suspensions or expulsions will decrease by nine percent from the 2026 baseline by 2029, as reported in the bullying, suspension, and expulsions data.



## **Chronic Absenteeism | FY2027–FY2029**

The percentage of students identified as chronically absent will decrease by six percent from the 2026 baseline by 2029, as reported in the State of Alaska annual accountability reporting system.

*\*For the purpose of this goal, chronically absent means a student who is absent for 10 percent or more of the total school days in which the student is enrolled during the school year, for any reason (excused or unexcused).*

# Alaska's Education Challenge Next Steps

- SBOE is being asked to authorize release of the draft strategic plan for a period of public comment
- Public comment will provide educators, families, communities, tribes, and statewide partners the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the proposed SMART goals
- Following the public comment period, the SBOE will consider adoption of the final strategic plan and goals
- DEED will align statewide implementation efforts, supports, and progress monitoring to advance the adopted priorities and measurable outcomes

# Contact Information

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