

Guiding Principles

The Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development will:

- Provide leadership that supports high expectations for Alaska's students and educational system.
- Support ideas and initiatives that are actionable.
- Establish trust and credibility among every stakeholder and partner involved in the process of improving student achievement.
- Be honest and transparent.

Members of the State Board of Education & Early Development

James Fields

State Board Chair, REAA Representative

Sue Hull

First Vice-Chair, Fourth Judicial District

John Harmon

Second Vice-Chair, Third Judicial District

Kenny Gallahorn

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Wilfried Zibell

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Alaska State Board of Education Strategic Priorities



**EDUCATION
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Strategic Priorities—Detail

Strategic Focus

Student achievement must be the focus of Alaska's education system. Ensuring that students are prepared to succeed in a rapidly changing world respects the public funds invested and secures Alaska's future. With student achievement as its highest priority, in June 2015 the State Board of Education & Early Development began the process of revising its strategic plan to guide its leadership as well as the actions of the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development. Informed by the perspectives of superintendents, legislators, and school board members, the State Board established three priorities as the foundation of its strategic plan.

Alaska's neediest schools replace, on average,

1 out of 4 teachers annually.

PRIORITY 1

Empower local control of educational decisions.

Alaska maintains a strong commitment to local governance of public schools. The Department of Education & Early Development strives to support districts and to facilitate improvement without unnecessary or intrusive mandates to local governance, while recognizing its responsibility to monitor compliance with state and federal law.

- Facilitate strong partnerships with and among school districts, educational organizations, and other education stakeholders in pursuit of educational excellence.
- Improve the process for input and feedback regarding State Board decisions.
- Scrutinize existing state mandates to eliminate unnecessary and/or unfunded mandates when possible and be able to fully justify any additional mandates imposed on school districts.

67% of surveyed superintendents responded that EED should **facilitate improvement** without unnecessary or intrusive mandates that undermine local governance.

PRIORITY 2

Modernize the state's educational system. Young people learn best when the school system adapts to each student instead of the student adapting to the system. Expanding beyond one-size-fits-all education to multiple options and increased flexibility can personalize education to meet individual needs and better prepare students for the workplace or post-secondary education. Innovative approaches to education, including effective use of technology, may accelerate learning while cutting costs and expanding opportunity.

- Increase and incentivize options and flexibility to personalize the educational experience for students.
- Promote innovative use of technology in order to increase access to high-quality coursework, improve efficiency, and amplify learning.
- Encourage and support innovative approaches to expand opportunity to overcome Alaska's educational challenges.

An education focused on students' needs and interests can increase student achievement including Alaska's **78%** five-year graduation rate.

PRIORITY 3

Ensure high-quality educators for Alaska's children. Teachers and school leaders are two of the most important in-school contributors to student achievement. Every student deserves to be taught by skillful, effective teachers and every teacher deserves the support of skillful, dedicated administrators. The recruitment, retention, and continuous improvement of teachers and administrators are an ongoing challenge for Alaska's public schools. The State Board of Education & Early Development is committed to partnership and leadership toward ensuring high-quality educators for Alaska's students.

- Develop state policy strategies for improving recruitment of high-quality teachers and administrators.
- Advocate for mentoring/coaching programs to support early-career teachers and administrators.
- Partner with the University of Alaska to improve teacher preparation, recruitment, and retention.
- Identify partnering opportunities to support ongoing, high-quality professional learning for teachers and administrators.