

Alaska Department Reading Program Application



Alaska Department of Education & Early Development

PO Box 110500

Juneau, AK 99811-0500

education.alaska.gov

Alaska Department Reading Program Purpose and Information

The Alaska Department Reading Program, established under Alaska's Reads Act, is a voluntary initiative for schools serving kindergarten through third grade that receive state funding and meet eligibility requirements as identified through Alaska Statutes 14.03.123 and described in AS 14.30.765 and 14.30.770.

Designed to provide direct support for participating schools in raising literacy proficiency in Alaska's lowest-performing 25% of K-3 schools, this program offers comprehensive support from a Department Reading Specialist for each participating school. Through collaborative planning, the District Reading Improvement Plan/Multi-Tiered System of Support (DRIP/MTSS) will be strengthened. As part of the plan, the program will enhance the ability of schools to implement a K-3 Intensive School Reading Improvement Plan (ISRIP). Support addresses evidence based instructional materials and practices, data dialogue, professional development, student focused scheduling and intervention practices, and communication with parents/guardians and other stakeholders.

DEED will notify eligible districts/schools about the opportunity to apply for the Department Reading Program. All completed applications received by DEED on or before the due date will be reviewed. Selection of program participants will be based on the evidence provided in the completed application packet and the district/school's readiness to receive and implement department reading intervention support.

Completed applications and all required documents are to be submitted to:
Diane.Ditton@alaska.gov. All applicants will receive an application receipt acknowledgment by email.

Questions about the program, please contact: Diane.Ditton@alaska.gov

Annual Notification of Opportunity to Participate	Notifications and Application: Fall
Application Available	January 14, 2025
Informational Q and A Sessions	January 28 & 30, 2025, 2-3 PM
Department Reading Program Application Due:	February 14, 2025
Department Reading Program Notification of Acceptance:	April 1, 2025
Department Reading Program Period:	July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026
End of Program Report Due:	June 30, 2026

Part 1 - Requirements

School Information

Applicant name: Lower Kuskokwim School District - Christina Powers

Position/Title: Director of Elementary Education

Email: Christina_Powers@lksd.org Phone: 907-543-4850

School Name: See Attached List for all Schools

School District: Lower Kuskokwim School District

Mailing address: PO Box 305 Bethel, AK 99559

The Department Reading Program's application process follows AS 14.30.770 and AAC 06.310.

The Department Reading Program, as outlined in AS 14.30.777, aims to support schools within the lowest performing 25% of schools. The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) will evaluate eligible applicants by reviewing historical and current student achievement data and the District Reading Improvement Plan (DRIP/MTSS). Complete all three parts of this application. Part 1 requires the following:

- Attach your District Reading Improvement Plan (DRIP/MTSS)
- Complete the following data tables

AK Star 3 rd Grade ELA Approaching Proficient/Needs Support	
Year	3 rd Grade ELA Data
2022-2023	279/285 = 97.89% of all third graders
2023-2024	307/312 = 98.4% of all third graders

mCLASS DIBELS 8 Grade K-3 Composite Score Below/Well Below Benchmark						
Year	Completion Rate	Beginning of Year (BOY)	Completion Rate	Middle of Year (MOY)	Completion Rate	End of Year (EOY)
2023-2024	97%	89%	93%	89%	98%	84%
2024-2025	94%	78%	94%	84%	N/A	N/A

Part 2 - Self-Evaluation of Readiness to Engage with DRP

The Self Evaluation of Readiness tool is designed to help applicants assess their school's readiness to engage with Department Reading Program (DRP). Evaluate the following elements based on your school's current literacy practices. Identify strengths and areas for improvement to enhance literacy outcomes for students. Each rating should be grounded in evidence, not perceptions, to accurately reflect the school's progress in implementing the AK Reads K-3 District Plan.

1 = Important, but not feasible now

2 = Area to Develop

3 = Partially in place, under development

4 = Completely in place


Area to Evaluate	Rating Self-Score	Comments to Support Score
Our District was served by Department Reading Program (DRP) in FY 24-25	Yes	Worked with Dana Evans
Multi-Tiered System of Support	4	Full developed and implemented
Evidence-based Literacy materials	4	All ELA materials are aligned with the Science of Reading.
Universal Instruction (aka Core Instruction, Tier I)	4	Reach 4 Reading and Heggerty's Bridge to Reading are used together for all K-3 students to receive grade level instruction
Interventions (Tier II, Tier III) Time and Intensity	4	Lexia Core 5, mClass Boost Reading,
Assessment (literacy screener, diagnostics, summative assessments, etc.)	3	Dibels 8, mClass progress monitoring, and MAP function as our screener and diagnostics. We do not have a universal summative aside from the AK Star
Data-based Decision Making	3	Data drive many of the decisions made in LKSD. We are beginning to shift to a new PLC model, which will more heavily structure the way data are used throughout the district.
Professional Development	3	While we maintain robust PD opportunities, we are actively seeking to improve and tailor our trainings to meet our teachers' needs.
Community & Family Involvement	2	We are supporting site administrators through PD in building stronger relationships with communities to increase family engagement.

Part 3 - District/School Commitment to Student Learning

Required Component	Response
Provide a statement describing the district or school's commitment and dedication to enhancing reading outcomes and implementing targeted reading improvement goals through the Department Reading Program.	LKSD is committed to implementing targeted reading interventions to close the literacy gap for our students. We are focusing our efforts to support teachers using rigorous, SoR-aligned grade-level curriculum and on providing targeted, intensive interventions for students that demonstrate unfinished learning.
Based on your self-assessment, describe the desired support and how it will improve K-3 reading proficiency.	LKSD is seeking support (financial) to provide remediation and enrichment opportunities for all students grades K-3. Beyond this, providing support for school administrators in strengthening community input is a priority for FY26.

School Principal Signature

Date



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District Superintendent Signature

Date

School Board Representative Signature

Date

Under the criteria established in AS 14.30.770 of the Alaska Reads Act, your district is eligible to apply

on behalf of the following school(s) identified for participation in the Department Reading Program for

the 2025-2026 school year.

- Joann A. Alexie Memorial School
- Negtemiut Elitnaurviat School
- Chaputnguak School
- Eek School
- Rocky Mountain School
- Ayagina'ar Elitnaurvik
- Ket'acik/Aapalluk Memorial School
- Kwigillingok School
- William Miller Memorial School
- Z. John Williams Memorial School
- Ayaprun School
- Lewis Angapak Memorial School
- Anna Tobeluk Memorial School
- Kuinerrarmiut Elitnaurviat
- Akiuk Memorial School
- Mertarvik School
- Paul T. Albert Memorial School