

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: North Slope Borough School District - Caitlin Santos

Position/Title: Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Email: caitlin.santos@nsbsd.org Phone: (907) 852-9654

School Name: Nunamiut, Nuiqsut Trapper, Kaveolook, Meade River, Tikigaaq, Alak

School District: North Slope Borough School District

Mailing address: PO Box 169, Utqiagvik, AK, 99723

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 3rd Grade ELA Approaching Proficient/Needs Support	
Year	3rd Grade ELA Data
2022-2023	Approaching Proficient - 17.78%, Needs Support - 80.74%
2023-2024	Approaching Proficient - 28.35%, Needs Support - 62.20%

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	92%	See Attached	93%	See Attached	94%	See Attached
2024-2025	92%	See Attached	92%	See Attached	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

3 = Partially in place, under development

2 = Area to Develop

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	
Multi-Tiered System of Support	3	
Evidence-based Literacy materials	4	
Universal Instruction (aka Core Instruction, Tier I)	3	
Interventions (Tier II, Tier III) Time and Intensity	3	
Assessment (literacy screener, diagnostics, summative assessments, etc.)	3	
Data-based Decision Making	3	
Professional Development	3	
Community & Family Involvement	2	

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.	
Based on your self-assessment, describe the desired support and how it will improve K-3 reading proficiency.	

Caitlin Santos Digitally signed by Caitlin Santos
 Date: 2025.02.12 13:20:13 -09'00' 3/12/25

School Principal Signature Date

DS Vadiveloo 2/13/25
[DS Vadiveloo \(Feb 13, 2025 15:08 AKST\)](#)

District Superintendent Signature Date

School Board Representative Signature Date