

# Alaska Department Reading Program Application



Alaska Department of Education & Early Development

PO Box 110500

Juneau, AK 99811-0500

[education.alaska.gov](http://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](mailto:Diane.Ditton@alaska.gov). All applicants will receive an application receipt acknowledgment by email.

Questions about the program, please contact: [Diane.Ditton@alaska.gov](mailto:Diane.Ditton@alaska.gov)

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

## Part 1 - Requirements

### School Information

Applicant name: Janice George Position/Title: Yupiaq Education Coordinator Email: jgeorge@yupiiit.org  
Phone: 907-825-3612/2173 School Name: Akiachak School, Akiak School, Tuluksak School School  
District: Yupiiit School District Mailing address: PO BOX 51190 Akiachak, AK 99551

**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

<b>AK Star 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade ELA Approaching Proficient/Needs Support</b>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade ELA Data</b>
<b>2022-2023</b>	100% of 3rd grade students scored between 1400-1561 median score of 1550
<b>2023-2024</b>	100% of 3rd grade students scored between 100-1561 median score of 1545

<b>mCLASS DIBELS 8 Grade K-3 Composite Score Below/Well Below Benchmark</b>						
<b>Year</b>	<b>Completion Rate</b>	<b>Beginning of Year (BOY)</b>	<b>Completion Rate</b>	<b>Middle of Year (MOY)</b>	<b>Completion Rate</b>	<b>End of Year (EOY)</b>
<b>2023-2024</b>	K-2 WV 3rd-100%	33/38 or 87%	K-2 WV 3rd - 95% (2 students absent)	27/35 or 77%	K-2 - WV 3rd - 100%	25/33 or 75%
<b>2024-2025</b>	K-2nd - WV Yup'ik Immersion 3rd - 0% & English 3rd- 100%	18/21 or 86%	K-2nd - WV Yupik Immersion 3rd - 100%	22/23 or 96%	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 the Department Reading Program (DRP) in FY 24-25	2	Our literacy screener waiver application was submitted on April 8, 2024 & got an email to inform me that it was approved in October 2024.
Multi-Tiered System of Support	2	We have this but for Yup'ik screeners, we're in the developing stage to determine the need for interventions that are in the development stage.
Evidence-based Literacy materials	2	<p>We need to create more materials to enhance what we're doing already. Vocabulary cards with different categories. This makes it easier for learners to remember and apply them in real situations.</p> <p>Flashcards to create interactive flashcards (digital or paper) with pictures on one side and the word/translation on the other. Simple, effective, and fun!</p>
Universal Instruction (aka Core Instruction, Tier I)	3	We are using Kalikanek Naaqinariuq books (K-5), each grade has 30 story lessons. They're culturally and developmentally aligned with cultural and academic standards in each grade level.

Interventions (Tier II, Tier III) Time and Intensity	2	Developing and determining literacy language work level for each grade level (Kindergarten to 2nd grade)
Assessment (literacy screener, diagnostics, summative assessments, etc.)	3	The literacy screener we use in our immersion classrooms (Kindergarten - 2nd Grade) has remained the same for the past few years.
Data-based Decision Making	2	I am currently working with the University of Oregon LSAIL team to develop Yup'ik language screeners.
Professional Development	3	It would be nice to see how other immersion language schools are teaching literacy and see in what ways we have similarities and differences in our teaching styles. Invite a retired teacher or a former teacher or an educator from Ayaprun Elitnaurvik for example to come and do in-service with our Immersion Teachers on how to best teach literacy in Yugtun.
Community & Family Involvement	2	There is a need for community and family involvement in the immersion program. A recent survey was put out in Nov/Dec 2024 and only 17 families participated out of 180 students in the Yup'ik Immersion program.

### 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.	<p>The Yupiit School District is dedicated to preserving and strengthening the Yupik language while ensuring that all students achieve literacy success. We recognize the vital role that language plays in cultural identity and academic growth. Through our targeted reading improvement goals and participation in the Alaska Department of Education's Reading Program, we are committed to providing high-quality, research-based instruction that supports both English and Yupik literacy development.</p> <p>By integrating culturally responsive teaching strategies, implementing the Science of Reading framework, and utilizing data-driven approaches, we aim to enhance reading outcomes for all students. Our educators receive ongoing professional development to ensure effective instruction, while our curriculum aligns with best practices to build strong foundational reading skills.</p> <p>The Yupiit School District remains steadfast in our mission to equip students with the literacy skills needed for academic achievement, cultural preservation, and lifelong learning. Through collaboration with families, community members, and educational partners, we will continue to support our students in becoming confident readers in both Yupik and English.</p>
Based on your self-assessment, describe the desired support and how it will improve K-3 reading proficiency.	<p>I am seeking support for the reading services for the districts Kindergarten to 2nd grade Immersion Program students as they learn their heritage (Yup'ik) language as part of our Yugtun Immersion Program.</p>

Bamir D. Sunde

2/5/2025

School Principal Signature Date

Shett Ballard

2-4-2025

District Superintendent Signature Date

Melanie Karagulis Alvario

2-5-2025

School Board Representative Signature Date

