

Dr. Michael Johnson
Commissioner



Department of Education
and Early Development

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New School Data Portal Available for Alaska's Families

Data Includes 2018-2019 School Designations

JUNEAU -- The Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) has created a new online data portal for Alaska's families entitled [The Compass: A Guide to Alaska's Public Schools](#). The purpose of the online portal is to provide Alaska's families with important information about their child's school so they can make the best decisions for their child's educational experience.



"This new website is the start of a journey to publish data in a manner that is relevant for students, celebrates success, and motivates improvement," said Alaska Education Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson. "In order to meet [Alaska's Education Challenge](#) we must inspire demand for great schools. By highlighting important information about our schools, our goal is to inspire Alaska's parents, educators, policy makers, and communities to seek answers to important questions about their students' education."

The Compass presents school-level data reported to DEED in an easily accessible and understandable online format. Visitors can view a profile of their school, compare their school's data over multiple years, compare two schools, and explore educational options in their local school district and across the state.

The data displayed includes this year’s school designations as part of Alaska’s accountability system for all public schools, known as the [System for School Success](#). The designations are based on multiple measures of student success, including graduation rates, academic growth and achievement, grade 3 English language arts proficiency, and other measures of school quality and student success in school year 2018-2019. This is the second year for the Alaska-developed accountability and support system as part of the state’s Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan.

“Just as state standards and assessments set expectations for what students should know and be able to do, state accountability systems set expectations for school performance and school system effectiveness,” said Tamara Van Wyhe, Director of Innovation and Education Excellence. “School designations help identify areas for improvement and determine the level of support and targeted resources needed to assist schools in their efforts to increase achievement for all students.”

More detailed information about school designations is available on the [System for School Success webpage](#).

“*The Compass* can be a vehicle for transformation, not just information,” noted Commissioner Johnson. “The data displayed should drive school improvement discussions on behalf of our students.”

Commissioner Johnson also thanked the team at DEED who has been working on this website for months, and will continue working to fulfill its purpose. He said, “I want to thank those at the Department who have shared a vision for the website and an education system that works for every student.”

DEED plans to expand the information available in *The Compass* to include school-level financial data and per-pupil expenditures per the new federal education requirements in ESSA. Additional data made available in the future may include extracurricular activities and course availability, among other options. DEED is seeking [public feedback](#) on what additional data Alaskans would like to see in the future.

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*The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development provides information, resources, and leadership to support over 130,000 students in 505 public schools across the state of Alaska. The mission of the department is to ensure an “**Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day.**”*

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