

Dr. Michael Johnson
Commissioner

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Department of Education
and Early Development

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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Per-Pupil Expenditure Data Available to the Public

JUNEAU – In September 2019 the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) released a new online data portal for Alaska’s families entitled [The Compass: A Guide to Alaska’s Public Schools](#). As of February 2020, DEED has added data relating to per-pupil expenditures of federal, state, and local funds to the online portal.

The addition of the financial per-pupil expenditures is part of the implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The U.S. Department of Education, through ESSA, now requires state educational agencies to publish per-pupil expenditures. The purpose of the requirement is to ensure that the public has access to accurate and reliable data on school spending. The availability of this financial data can aid families with important decisions relating to their child’s educational experience. DEED has added the financial data to *The Compass* to allow for more comprehensive comparisons of school data.

“A priority identified by stakeholders through [Alaska’s Education Challenge](#) is the need to ensure equitable educational resources to Alaskans,” said Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson. “*The Compass* provides a tool for parents to access information about their child’s school – including the financial investment in their student. The availability of this data will empower families to be involved and advocate for their children’s education, as well as accountability in our schools.”

“Having spent decades as both a teacher and school administrator, I recognize the importance of providing families with every tool possible to advocate for their children’s educational success. *The Compass* serves as a tool for families to hold our schools and school districts accountable for outcomes that do not reflect the levels of spending,” said Governor Mike Dunleavy. “As a state, we have a moral imperative to provide the best educational opportunities we possibly can for every Alaskan child and strive for better outcomes.”

The Compass presents school and district-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.

Additional data made available in the future may include extracurricular activities and course availability, among other options. To make a suggestion about additional data you would like to see, please take a moment to complete [The Compass Feedback Questionnaire](#).

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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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