

Dr. Michael Johnson
Commissioner



Department of Education
and Early Development

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Juneau, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 27, 2022

Alaska Science of Reading Symposium Underway This Weekend in Anchorage

JUNEAU – This weekend the Alaska Science of Reading Symposium in Anchorage will establish a foundation for understanding and applying evidence-based literary instruction best practices. With more than 900 educators, policy makers, parents and other education stakeholder registered, the Symposium is poised to be the largest gathering of Alaska education stakeholders since the formation of [Alaska's Education Challenge](#) in 2017.

All Symposium events will be in-person at the Egan Center in Anchorage. Keynote presentations will be streamed on the [event website](#) and [Department of Education & Early Development's Facebook page](#). Registration for attendees has closed.

Members of the media can RSVP to DEED Public Information Officer Grant Robinson by emailing grant.robinson@alaska.gov or calling (907) 500-4983.

The Alaska Science of Reading Symposium is presented by the Department of Education and Early Development and the Region 16 Comprehensive Center.

Supporting all children to read at grade level by the end of the third grade is one of five measurable goals identified through Alaska's Education Challenge. In 2019, Alaska had more than 38,000 students (60.8%) below or far below proficient in English Language Arts.

The Science of Reading is an ongoing field of study that examines approximately the last fifty years of research to determine the most effective way to teach reading. A scientific approach to reading instruction includes explicit, systematic, instruction in phonological awareness (sounds), phonics, fluency (ability to read accurately and at an appropriate rate), vocabulary, and comprehension.

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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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