

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

School Improvement Science of Reading pre-convening



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Introductions

SRS Admin:

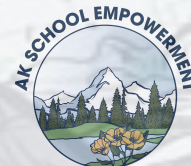
Christy Roe

Empowerment Specialists:

Evan Hummel

Kevin Dennis

Kristie Parsons



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School Improvement Points of Contact

Point of Contact:	Christy Roe SRS Administrator	Evan Hummel Empowerment Specialist	Kevin Dennis Empowerment Specialist	Kristie Parsons Empowerment Specialist
Email:	christy.roe@alaska.gov	evan.hummel@alaska.gov	kevin.dennis2@alaska.gov	kristie.parsons@alaska.gov
Districts:	<p>Ketchikan Nenana Skagway</p>	<p>Anchorage Bering Strait Bristol Bay Borough Chugach Craig City Denali Borough Dillingham Juneau Nome Sitka Southwest Region</p>	<p>Aleutians East Delta-Greely Fairbanks Hydaburg Iditarod Kashunamiut Kenai Peninsula Lower Kuskokwim NW Arctic Yukon-Koyukuk</p>	<p>Alaska Gateway Galena Kodiak Kuspuk Lake & Penn Lower Yukon Mat-Su North Slope Yukon Flats Yupiit</p>

Agenda



Activity
Welcome and Intro
State updates
Roles and Responsibilities
FY26 Exiting Schools- Directions for exiting schools
FY27 Requirements in GMS
Science of Reading Preview: What to expect
Breakout Room with Empowerment Specialists <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="741 1096 1098 1139">● Site Check-ins<li data-bbox="741 1159 1212 1202">● Technical Assistance

DEED's Mission and Vision

An excellent education for every student every day

All students will succeed in their education and work, shape worthwhile and satisfying lives for themselves, exemplify the best values of society, and be effective in improving the character and quality of the world about them.

- Alaska Statute 14.03.015



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State Updates

GMS School Improvement Application set to open on April 7th

- Preliminary allocations will be added for each school, these allocations are subject to change based off of actual Title 1A funding that the state receives in July

School Improvement Plan Template Update

- Removal of Superintendent Signature on School Improvement Plan
- Note that Principal Signature is still required



State Updates

Upcoming Webinars

- April 15th, at 10:00 am the DEED School Improvement Team will review the FY27 School Improvement Application requirements including what schools and districts will be expected to submit for the FY27 (2026-2027 School Year). District Liaisons and Principals of designated schools are encouraged to attend.

[Register for the Webinar Here](#)



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School Improvement Roles and Responsibilities:

- **District**
 - **District Liaison**
- **School**
- **DEED**
 - **Empowerment Specialists**

Thorough descriptions available in the
[Empowerment Playbook Pg. 146 \(Appendix D\)](#)



District's Role and Commitment

[Playbook Pg. 149 \(Appendix D\)](#)

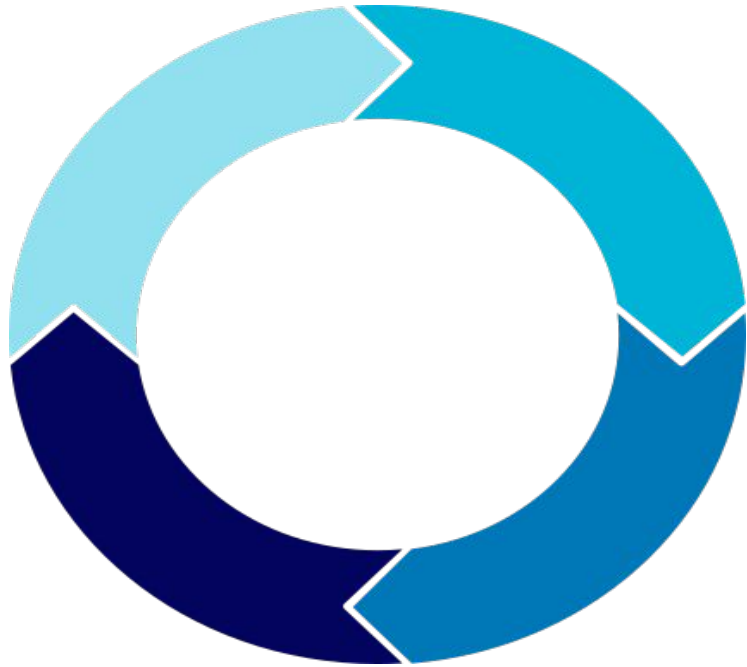


Support the school(s) through:

- Providing a District Liaison who helps with:
 - Facilitating a relationship between the district and DEED
 - Keeping schools accountable for completing steps
 - Data Collection and Analysis
 - Participating in meetings as necessary and reporting progress to district
- School Improvement Plan Review, Approval, and monitoring
- Submitting documents and budget to DEED by the end of May

School's Role and Commitment

[Playbook Pg. 150 \(Appendix D\)](#)

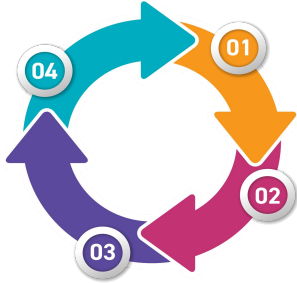


Engage in Empowerment Process

- Form a Team
- Thorough Needs Assessment
- Create a Plan
- Implement Plan with Fidelity

DEED's Role and Commitment

[Playbook Pg. 146 \(Appendix D\)](#)



Policy and Process

- Empowerment Plan
- Platform Development
- ESEA Monitoring
- Plan and Budget Review

Funding and Support

- 1003a Grants
- Workshops
- EB Resources
- Empowerment Playbook
- Empowerment Specialists

Empowerment Specialists

- Guide the school through the Empowerment Process and assist in:
 - developing a team
 - school and community meetings
 - data analysis
 - plan implementation

School Celebrations

Remember, Module 4 of the Empowerment Playbook is Reflections and Celebrations!!



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Exiting Schools

Muldoon Elementary
William Tyson Elementary
Wonder Park Elementary
Naknek Elementary
Whittier Community School
Two Rivers School
Interior Distance Education
of Alaska
Hydaburg School
Auke Bay Elementary
Harborview Elementary
Sayéik: Gastineau
Community School

*Kachemak Selo School
Nanwalek School
Soldotna High School
Revilla Jr/Sr High School
Crow Village Sam School
Chaputnguak School
*Negtemiut Elitnaurviat
School
Mountain Village School
Valley Pathways
Houston Middle School
Meadow Lakes
Elementary

Burchell High School
Susitna Valley High
Tikigaq School
Fred Ipalook Elementary
Kiana School
*June Nelson Elementary
NWABSD Home School
Skagway School
Aleknagik School
Chief Ivan Blunka School



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FY 26 Exiting Schools

If you are exiting from school improvement at the end of the current school year:

Step 1

Create a document overview (PDF, Word, Google, etc) of your final year in school improvement. Include goals achieved and outcomes. [Example reports can be seen here.](#)

Step 2

Email this document to your School Improvement Point of Contact and CC Christy Roe at christy.roe@alaska.gov. This document does NOT go into GMS.



Plan Updates and FY 27 Document Requirements



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School Empowerment Plan

- Modify Year 2 Actions as needed (if applicable)
- Modify Year 3 Actions as needed (if applicable)
- Approved changes from QPMR (Quarterly Progress Monitoring Reports)
 - Quarter 1
 - Quarter 2
 - Quarter 3
- Complete Year # Progress Reporting (Progress and Annual Reporting at the end of the School Improvement Plan form)
- Assurances are attached and signed by the Principal
- If the school is using their SIP as a SW plan, ensure that Title I Grant needs met (Indicators are in Plan, [more information on using SIP as a SW plan here](#))
- Identify where the plans are housed for incoming staff access and public access
- Spelling, Grammar, etc.

Updated SIP Checklist

Budget

- Clear link to budget items and plan
 - Confirm that costs are allowable using the [Allowable Cost Checklist for Federal Funds](#)



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Progress and Annual Reporting

Year 1 Progress Reporting (To be completed at end of school year)

Goal: _____

Indicator: # _____ Actual Results: _____ Comments: _____

Indicator: # _____ Actual Results: _____ Comments: _____

Strategy: _____

Indicator: # _____ Actual Results: _____ Comments: _____

Indicator: # _____ Actual Results: _____ Comments: _____

Milestones and Actions

% Milestones

% Actions Completed

Completed

Causes & Adjustments for Year 2:



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FY 27 Document Requirements

For FY27, Schools in designation will turn in:

- an updated 3-year School Improvement Plan
- an updated Budget for the School Improvement Plan into GMS
- a comprehensive needs assessment (for schools that received their designation notification in Fall of 2025)

This documentation is due to DEED May 15th, 2026.

Science of Reading Preview: What to expect

Early bird Registration ends TOMORROW! Register today for the lowest rate. Price increases to \$149 on Thursday
[Register Here](#)

The entire event is simulcast for folks who aren't able to attend in-person. Registration for virtual option is on the registration page (\$49).

We have had a number of schools in years past who have had "watch parties" with small groups of educators at their school site



Science of Reading Preview: What to expect

[Science of Reading Ambassador nominations close on April 6th!](#) This is a great way for schools to recognize people who have gone above and beyond to further reading achievement. 2026 Awardees will be announced and recognized at the symposium on Sunday, May 3rd.

"Alaska Reads Networking Room" on Level 1 this year that will provide informal meeting/networking space so teams can do just that



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Science of Reading Preview: Trail Map

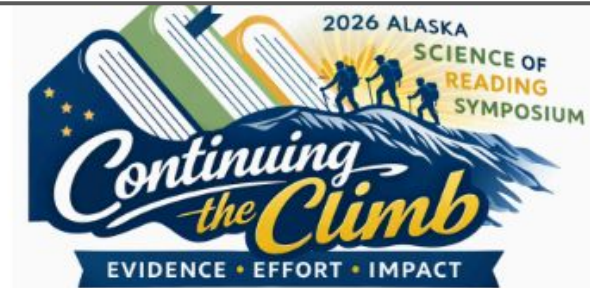
2026 Alaska Science of Reading Symposium “Trail Map”

Friday - Sunday, May 1-3, 2026

Dena’ina Civic and Convention Center

Note: Early-bird registration pricing ends April 1st at 11:59 pm! Visit

<https://bit.ly/aksor-26-reg>



Keynotes:

- Dr. Tim Shanahan - How to Teach Reading with Complex Text
- Dr. Anthony Muhammad - Transforming School Culture 2.0
- Dr. Elfrieda “Freddy” Hiebert - The New Science of Vocab: How AI Can Support Language Learning
- Lindsay Kemeny, MS - 7 Mighty Moves for Reading Success
- Elizabeth Bassford, MEd - What Do We Mean When We Say It’s Too Hard?
- Dr. Jan Hasbrouck - Climbing the Ladder of Reading and Writing: All Means ALL!

Breakout sessions focus on five strands:

- Birth to Kindergarten Entry
- Kindergarten through Grade 5
- Grades 6 through 12
- Leadership
- Family Engagement





Day 1: Friday, May 1, 2026 - Choose THREE

Lead Presenter	Session Title
Dr. Teresa Chambers	Stories of Success in Alaska's Schools
Dr. Heather Hennissey	Alaska's Shared Climb: Advancing Strong, Equitable Literacy for ALL Early Childhood Students
Lindsay Kemeny, MS	Rock Your Literacy Block
Dr. Anthony Muhammad	Leading for Reading Success
Dr. Molly Ness	Making Words Stick
Dr. Jamey Peavler	Cognitive Load Theory: Managing Working Memory to Maximize Learning
Darren Schlepp, MEd	The Writing Rope: Bridging Research to Classroom Practice
Dr. Timothy Shanahan	Building a Framework for Reading Success

Day 2: Saturday, May 2, 2026 - Choose THREE

Lead Presenter	Session Title
MaryKate DeSantis, EdM	Raising Readers through Oral Language
Dr. Freddy Hiebert	Starting the Staircase (K-2): Text Sets that Building Automaticity
Dr. Freddy Hiebert	Climbing the Staircase (Grades 3-5) - Building Automaticity with Complex Words and Knowledge-Rich Text Sets
Dr. Freddy Hiebert	Extending the Staircase (Grades 6-12) - Supporting Automaticity and Vocabulary Growth in Adolescent Readers
Dr. Noman Kahani	From Policy to Practice: Using IRIPs to Strengthen MTSS and Teacher-Led Decision-Making
Lindsay Kemeny, MS	Writing Rocks! Using POW to Create WOW-Worthy Writing
Dr. Leslie Laud	Bring the Science of Writing to Your School
Dr. Sylvia Linan-Thompson	From Talking to Comprehension: A process to build academic language and reading comprehension
Dr. Molly Ness	Building Comprehension through Think Alouds
Dr. Jamey Peavler	The Power of Practice in Instructional Design
Dr. Tiffany Peltier	Starting with Sounds - Building to Words
Dr. Tiffany Peltier	Routines for Unlocking Long Words



Day 3: Sunday, May 3, 2026 - Choose TWO

Lead Presenter	Session Title
AK Family Engage Ctr	Partnering with Alaskan Families and Communities for Reading Success
MaryKate DeSantis, EdM	Dyslexia and DLD: A Connection Every Educator Should Know
Dr. Jan Hasbrouck	SAILS: How Standards, Assessments, Instruction & Intervention, Leadership and Sustained Commitment Can Help ALL Students Achieve Success!
Dr. Heather Hennissey	Come on In: Cultivating Authentic Partnerships w Families to Support Equitable Outcomes
Dr. Pam Kastner	Practice Makes Permanent: Aligning Practice to How Students Learn Using the Instructional Hierarchy
Dr. Leslie Laud	Scaling the Science of Writing: NHED Implementation
Dr. Tiffany Peltier	Building Fluent Readers
Dr. Tiffany Peltier	Learning to Write and Writing to Learn
Darren Schlepp, MEd	Beyond the Basics: Advancing Adolescent Literacy Through the Science of Reading



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Opportunities to connect the work

- If you have questions about tiered interventions within your curriculum, check in with the vendor if they are present
- Select an evidence-based intervention from a presentation that could be integrated into your school improvement plan
- Look for connections between information that is presented and things that your school/district is already doing



Closing

- ❑ Reach out to your School Improvement Point of Contact if you have questions or if you would like to meet up during the Symposium
- ❑ Assign responsibilities to ensure work is completed
 - ❑ Needs Assessment
 - ❑ SIP
- ❑ Connecting Science of Reading Symposium Learning with School Improvement Activities



School Improvement Points of Contact

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Date	Description	Location/Details
March 31, 2026	OPTIONAL Quarter 3 Progress Monitoring Report Due	Schools/Districts
May 1-3, 2026	Science of Reading Symposium May 3 @ 2:30- SI Post Conference	Dena'ina Center, Anchorage
May 15, 2026	School Improvement: Plans, Updates, Budgets, and Comprehensive Needs Assessment (if newly designated) due in GMS	Schools/Districts
August 15, 2026	FER for FY26 due	Districts
September 15, 2026	Fall Convening (Health and Safety Summit Pre-conference)	Egan Center, Anchorage