

State Board of Education and Early Development

Annual Report to the Alaska Legislature

DRAFT - Updated November 21, 2023



State Board of Education and Early Development

James Fields, Chair

Lorri Van Diest, First Vice-Chair

Sally Stockhausen, Second Vice-Chair

Bob Griffin

Jeffrey Erickson

Barbara Tyndall

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Felix Myers, Student Advisor

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Alaska State Constitution Education Clause

Section 7.1 - Public Education.

The legislature shall by general law establish and maintain a system of public schools open to all children of the State, and may provide for other public educational institutions. Schools and institutions so established shall be free from sectarian control. No money shall be paid from public funds for the direct benefit of any religious or other private educational institution.

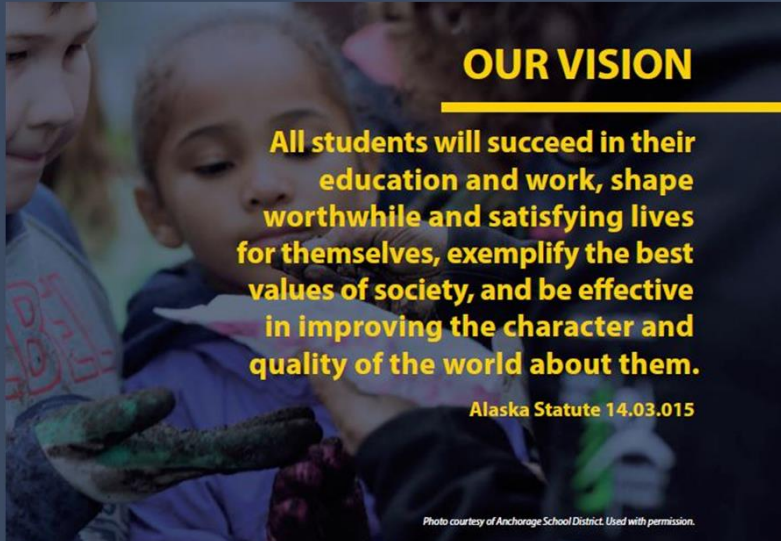
AS 14.07.168. Report to the legislature

Not later than the 30th legislative day of each regular session of the legislature, the board shall prepare and present in person to the legislative committees having jurisdiction over education an annual report that describes the efforts of the board to develop, maintain, and continuously improve a comprehensive quality public education system, as provided for under the bylaws of the board. The report must include:

1. a summary of the resolves and rationales provided in support of policy decisions made under AS 14.03.015;
2. program and curriculum changes made, discussed, or recommended in meetings held under AS 14.07.125;
3. additional information relevant to efforts made to improve and maintain the public education system.

OUR MISSION

**An excellent education
for every student
every day.**



The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) Alaska Education Challenge

Purpose Statement

The Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) provides *information, resources, and leadership* to support an excellent education for every student every day.

Alaska's Education Challenge

Over the last six years, parents, students, educators, policymakers, tribal leaders, partner organizations, and local school boards have stepped forward to answer Alaska's call to action to create a shared vision for improving our public education system – the result is Alaska's Education Challenge.



That vision starts with three shared commitments: (1) Increase Student Success, (2) Cultivate Safety and Well-Being, and (3) Support Responsible and Reflective Learners.

In order to meet Alaska’s education challenges, we are addressing our public education system through three components:

1. A call to action: Shared Commitments
2. A focus of efforts: Measurable Goals
3. A prioritization of change: Targeted Strategies

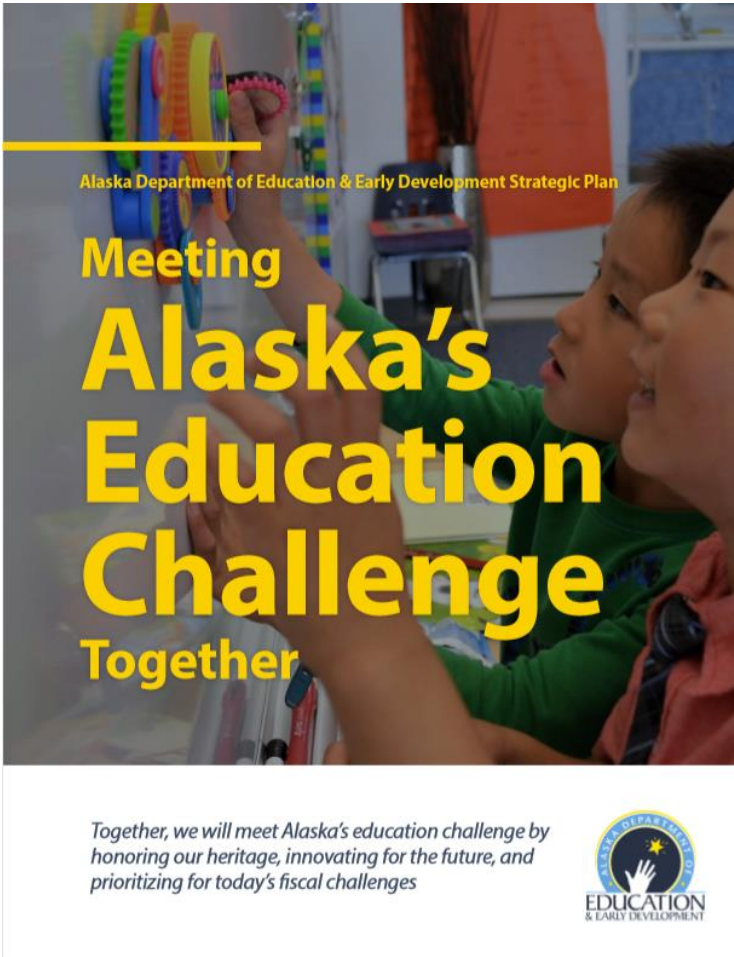


Under the State Board of Education (Board) leadership, DEED has been collaborating with partner organizations to create and implement a strategic plan focused on five specific, measurable goals that are most likely to improve student outcomes from the dialogue and recommendations brought forward through the Alaska's Education Challenge.

The five goals are:

1. Support all students to read at grade level by the end of third grade
2. Increase career, technical, and culturally relevant education to meet student and workforce needs
3. Close the achievement gap by ensuring equitable educational rigor and resources
4. Prepare, attract, and retain effective education professionals
5. Improve the safety and well-being of students through school partnerships with families, communities, and tribes


To learn more about the Alaska's Education Challenge and view the strategic plan, visit <https://education.alaska.gov/akedchallenge>.



Alaska Department of Education & Early Development Strategic Plan

**Meeting
Alaska's
Education
Challenge
Together**

Together, we will meet Alaska's education challenge by honoring our heritage, innovating for the future, and prioritizing for today's fiscal challenges



EDUCATION
& EARLY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATIONS AND OTHER BOARD ACTIONS

Regulation Changes

In January 2023, the Board opened a period of public comment on the proposed regulations related to the **Alaska Reads Act** (House Bill 114, Chapter 40, SLA 2022), which became law on July 15, 2022 with an effective date of July 1, 2023. In April, the board adopted those changes:

- Adding new regulations 4 AAC 06.300 through 4 AAC 06.390 to implement a department reading program;
- Adding new regulations 4 AAC 06.400 through 4 AAC 06.490 to implement a district reading improvement program;
- Amending teacher certification regulations 4 AAC 12.300(g), 4 AAC 12.305, 4 AAC 12.310, 4 AAC 12.345, 4 AAC 12.407, and 4 AAC 12.900(a), adding new sections to teacher certification regulations 4 AAC 12.310, 4 AAC 12.392, 4 AAC 12.393, 4 AAC 12.409, and repealing 4 AAC 12.900(b) to address teacher certification requirements; and,
- Adding new regulations 4 AAC 05.100, 4 AAC 60.190 through 4 AAC 60.990, adopting by reference Early Education Program Standards, and repealing 4 AAC 60.037 and 4 AAC 60.180 to implement an early education grant program.

In March 2023, the Board adopted regulation changes to [Out-of-State Teacher Reciprocity](#)¹ in response to SB 20 (Chapter 69, SLA 2022).

In March 2023, the Board also adopted regulation changes to the [Limited Teacher Certificate](#)² requirements in response to HB 19 (Chapter 73, SLA 2022).

In April 2023, the Board opened public comment for regulation changes pertaining to a statewide student assessment system under 4 AAC 06.710. The amendment includes the addition of a [Statewide Screening Tool](#)³ described in AS 14.30.760, adopted under the Alaska Reads Act, HB 114 (Chapter 40, SLA 2022). After public comment closed, the Board voted to approve the adoption of the proposed regulation at the June 2023 board meeting.

¹ State of Alaska. Online Public Notices. *NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO OUT OF STATE RECIPROCITY IN THE REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT.*

<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=209254>

² State of Alaska. Online Public Notices. *NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO LIMITED TEACHER CERTIFICATE IN THE REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT.*

<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=209253>

³ State of Alaska. Online Public Notices. *NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES ON THE STATEWIDE SCREENING TOOL IN THE REGULATIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT.*

<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=210784>

In June 2023, the Board opened a period of public comment on the amendment of [Interscholastic Activities](#)⁴, 4 AAC 06.115. At that same Board meeting, verbal public comment on this proposed change spanned multiple hours. During public comment, the Board received over 1,300 responses. At the July 2023 Board meeting, there was again multiple hours of verbal public comment. In August 2023, the Board held a special meeting to vote to approve the regulation.

In June 2023, the Board opened a period of public comment to add new regulations 4 AAC 67.010 through 4 AAC 67.900 to implement a [Virtual Education Consortium](#)⁵ defined by AS 14.30.800. After public comment ended, that regulation was adopted by the board in July 2023.

In October 2023, the Board opened a period of public comment concerning changes to [Limited Teacher Certification and the Seal of Biliteracy](#)⁶. A public notice on this topic was originally issue in December 2022, but additional regulation changes required a supplemental notice.

Resolutions and Other Board Actions

In January 2023, the Board approved their [annual report to the legislature](#)⁷ and approved a [Teacher Apprentice Program Board Resolution](#)⁸.

In March 2023, the Board approved the Fiscal Year 2024 [School Construction](#)⁹ and [Major Maintenance](#)¹⁰ Project Ranking Lists, selected the [State-Tribal Education Compact](#)

⁴ State of Alaska. Online Public Notices. *NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES ON INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES IN THE REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT.*

<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=211543>

⁵ State of Alaska. Online Public Notices. *NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES ON VIRTUAL EDUCATION IN THE REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT.*

<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=211455>

⁶ State of Alaska. Online Public Notices. *SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO LIMITED TEACHER CERTIFICATE AND SEAL OF BILITERACY IN THE REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT.* <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=212956>

⁷ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. State Board of Education. *Annual Report to the Alaska Legislature January 2023.*

https://education.alaska.gov/state_board/pdf/2022%20Annual%20Report%20to%20the%20Alaska%20State%20Legislature%20-%20submitted%20February%202023.pdf

⁸ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. State Board of Education. *Resolution 01-2023.*

https://education.alaska.gov/State_Board/pdf/01-2023%20SBOE%20Alt%20Teacher%20Pathways%20Resolution.pdf

⁹ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. State Board of Education. *Final FY2024 School Construction DEED Capital Improvement Project Rankings.*

https://education.alaska.gov/State_Board/pdf/March2023/4.1%20FY24ConstructionFinalList.pdf

¹⁰ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. State Board of Education. *Final FY2024 Major Maintenance DEED Capital Improvement Project Rankings.*

https://education.alaska.gov/State_Board/pdf/March2023/4.2%20FY24MaintenanceFinalList.pdf

[Demonstration Tribal Partners Awardees](#)¹¹, and approved charter school renewals for the [Highland Academy Charter School](#)¹² and the [Frontier Charter School](#)¹³.

The Board also adopted [Resolution 02-2023](#)¹⁴ supporting the preservation of the opportunity for student athletes while balancing competitive fairness, inclusion, and safety for all to compete.

In April 2023, five schools were recognized as Purple Star School designees, and Board Military Advisor Lt. Col. Fowley attended the designation ceremony.

Anchorage School District

- [Aurora Elementary](#)¹⁵
- Frontier Charter School¹⁶
- Orion Elementary¹⁷
- [Ravenwood Elementary](#)¹⁸

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

- [Ladd Elementary](#)¹⁹

Later that month, multiple Board members attended the [2023 Alaska Science of Reading Symposium](#)²⁰ which brought together Alaskan educators, parents, and partners to ground Alaska education stakeholders in a cohesive understanding of the science of reading and to engage in conversations about Alaska's reading performance and how to move the needle on student outcomes.

In June, the Board approved the establishment of the [Alyeska Reading Institute](#)²¹ with the following conditions:

¹¹ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. State Board of Education. *11.0 State Tribal Education Compact Cover Memo Business Meeting*.

https://education.alaska.gov/State_Board/pdf/March2023/11.0%20State%20Tribal%20Education%20Compact%20Cover%20Memo%20Business%20Meeting.pdf

¹² Highland Academy Charter School. <https://www.asdk12.org/highlandacademy>

¹³ Frontier Charter School. <https://frontiercs.org/>

¹⁴ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. State Board of Education. *02-2023 SBOE Resolution Preserving the Opportunity for Athletes*. https://education.alaska.gov/state_board/pdf/02-2023%20SBOE%20Resolution%20Preserving%20the%20Opportunity%20for%20Athletes.pdf

¹⁵ Aurora Elementary. <https://www.asdk12.org/aurora>

¹⁶ Frontier Charter School. <https://frontiercs.org/>

¹⁷ Orion Elementary. <https://www.asdk12.org/orion>

¹⁸ Ravenwood Elementary. <https://www.asdk12.org/Ravenwood>

¹⁹ Ladd Elementary. <https://www.k12northstar.org/ladd>

²⁰ Alaska Science of Reading Symposium. <https://aksorsymposium.org/>

²¹ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. State Board of Education. *Alaska Reads Act: Implementation Update – Alyeska Reading Institute*. June 8, 2023. https://education.alaska.gov/state_board/june-2023/Alaska%20Reads%20Act%20Implementation%20Efforts.6.2023%20MOD.pdf

- The Alyeska Reading Institute shall be established within DEED to support students and educators in meeting the outcomes of the Alaska Reads Act, and
- DEED shall retain oversight for the Alyeska Reading Institute

The Board also approved the Fiscal Year 2024 DEED budget and the [Computer Science State Plan](#)²².

At that June 2023 meeting, the board also recognized five excellent [Career and Technical Education Programs](#)²³:

- [Minto School](#)²⁴ in Yukon-Koyukuk School District, Scott Breckner, Hydroponics Growing
- [Delta/Greeley School District](#)²⁵, Boat Building
- [Alaska Resource Education](#)²⁶, Powerful Opportunities for Women in Resources Camp
- [Annette Island School District](#)²⁷, Scuba Program
- [Bristol Bay Regional Career and Technical Education](#)²⁸ Programs, Fisheries Program

In July 2023, the Board approved DEED to pursue the sale of the Stratton Library, with the Governor’s approval, and with the following conditions:

- Proceeds from the sale of the Stratton Library shall be directed towards the [Sheldon Jackson Museum](#),²⁹ and
- DEED shall retain oversight of the Sheldon Jackson Museum including its facilities, operations, and grounds.

At the July 2023 meeting, the Board also approved the continuation of the Alaska Pacific University’s initial [Teacher Preparation Program](#)³⁰ state approval through June 30, 2030.

In October 2023, the Board voted in favor to place the [Alaska Bible College Teacher Preparation Program](#)³¹ into provisional approval status.

²² Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. State Board of Education. *Alaska Computer Science Education State Plan*. May 5, 2023. https://education.alaska.gov/state_board/june-2023/4.1%20Alaska%20Computer%20Science%20State%20Plan%20v%202023.05.05.pdf

²³ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. State Board of Education. *Alaska State Board of Education proposed Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program Recognition*. https://education.alaska.gov/state_board/june-2023/5.1%20Alaska%20State%20Board%20of%20Education%20proposed%20CTE%20Program%20Recognition.pdf

²⁴ Yukon-Koyukuk School District. Minto School. <https://www.yksd.com/domain/38>

²⁵ Delta/Greeley School District. <https://www.dgsd.us/>

²⁶ Alaska Resource Education. <https://www.akresource.org/>

²⁷ Annette Island School District. <https://www.aisdk12.org/>

²⁸ Bristol Bay Regional Career and Technical Education. <https://bbrcte.org/>

²⁹ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Libraries, Archives, and Museums. *Sheldon Jackson Museum*. https://museums.alaska.gov/sheldon_jackson/

³⁰ Alaska Pacific University. *Teacher Education K-8 Certificate*. <https://www.alaskapacific.edu/programs/teacher-education-k-8-certificate/>

³¹ Alaska Bible College. *Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education*. <https://www.akbible.edu/academics/undergraduate/elementary-education/>

Later that month, the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE) hosted the first annual [Alaska FAFSA Summit](#)³².

New Officers, Members, and Staff

The Board has five committees with the following membership:

Reading	CTE & Cultural Education	Safety & Well-Being	Tribal Compacting	Effective Educators
Rob Griffin <i>Committee Chair</i>	Lorri Van Diest <i>Committee Chair</i>	Jeff Erickson <i>Committee Chair</i>	Vacant as of March 2023 <i>Committee Chair</i>	Sally Stockhausen <i>Committee Chair</i>
Sally Stockhausen	Jeff Erickson	Lorri Van Diest	Bob Griffin	James Fields
		Felix Myers	James Fields	Lt. Col. James Fowley
				Felix Myers

Members Sandy Kowalski and Keith Hamilton ended their service as Board members in March 2023.

Chair James Fields was reappointed to the REAA Representative seat on March 1, 2023. His term will expire on March 1, 2028.

In June 2023, Board members re-elected James Fields as the Chair to serve from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Members also elected Lorri Van Diest as the First Vice Chair and Sally Stockhausen as the Second Vice Chair for the term.

The Board appointed two seats to the Mt. Edgecumbe High School Advisory Board in June 2023. Tanya Kitka was appointed the Alumni Representative and Robyn Burke was appointed as the Parent Representative for Term A.

The Board approved the Commissioner and Acting Commissioner appointments of Lacey Sanders as the Deputy Commissioner; Karen Morrison as the Director of the Division Finance and Support Services Director; and Carol Boatman as the Alyeska Reading Institute Director. Lacey Sanders has since vacated the position.

³² Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education. *Alaska FAFSA Completion Initiative*. <https://acpe.alaska.gov/FINANCIAL-AID/The-FAFSA>

In July 2023, two new members were sworn into Board service. Barbara Tyndall fills the Fourth Judicial District seat, and her term expires on March 1, 2028. Pamela Dupras fills the At-Large seat, and her term also expires on March 1, 2028.

In July 2023, the board appointed Dr. Deena Bishop as the Commissioner of the Department of Education and Early Development, contingent on Governor approval and effective August 9, 2023.

In October 2023, the Board appointed members to the following boards and commissions:

Boards and Commissions	Member
Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education (ACPE)	Lorri Van Diest
Governor’s Council on Disabilities & Special Education ³³	Sally Stockhausen
Public School Trust Fund Advisory Committee ³⁴ (AS 37.14.120)	James Fields Bob Griffin Barbara Tyndall
DEED Technical Advisory Committee	Barbara Tyndall
College of Rural and Community Development	Lorri Van Diest
Education Commission of the States ³⁵	James Fields Pamela Dupras (alternate)
Mt. Edgecumbe High School Advisory Board ³⁶	Sally Stockhausen
Joint Subcommittee with University of Alaska Board of Regents	Pamela Dupras Sally Stockhausen Lorri Van Diest (alternate)

In December 2023, the Board will approve a Student-Advisor Elect.

³³ State of Alaska. Department of Health. *Governor’s Council on Disabilities and Special Education*. <https://health.alaska.gov/gcdse/pages/default.aspx>

³⁴ State of Alaska. Department of Revenue. Treasury Division. *Publi School Trust Fund*. <https://treasury.dor.alaska.gov/home/investments/public-school-trust-fund>

³⁵ Education Commission of the States. <https://www.ecs.org/>

³⁶ Mt. Edgecumbe High School. *Advisory Board*. https://www.mehs.us/about_us/advisory_board

SIGNIFICANT STEPS

Assessment Changes: AK STAR

DEED has partnered with [NWEA](#)³⁷ to implement a creative approach to balanced statewide assessment that better reflects learning throughout the school year and helps educators target instruction to students' individual needs. The Alaska System of Academic Readiness ([AK STAR](#)³⁸) is designed to streamline the testing experience for grades 3–9 in the areas of English language arts (ELA) and mathematics.

This innovative Alaska statewide assessment system will:

- Streamline testing and maximize efficiency. A connected system provides a more seamless experience between interim and end-of-year assessments for students and educators and reduces testing events (starting in school year 2022–2023).
- Increase coherence across interim and end-of-year tests so educators can drive students toward consistent, challenging learning targets.
- Help to amplify student learning. Alaska's innovative assessment system will give educators, students, and families meaningful insights on student strengths and areas of need to support students in reaching their highest academic potential.
- Increase opportunity for students and schools to show growth. Fall-to-spring and year-to-year growth data, along with access to normative data, are available to both districts and DEED. Within-year growth data enables all students and educators to show and celebrate growth and provides districts with a more complete view of school performance as they work to ensure equitable educational rigor and resources for all Alaska students.

DEED is committed to a multi-year approach to design and review AK STAR that included development of Achievement Level Descriptors and standard setting process in 2022, followed by a validation study and policy review committee in 2023. This process will ensure that the achievement levels best reflect student performance and best inform schools, teachers, families, and students of where they are in their learning towards the [Alaska Content Standards](#)³⁹.

³⁷ NWEA. <https://www.nwea.org/>

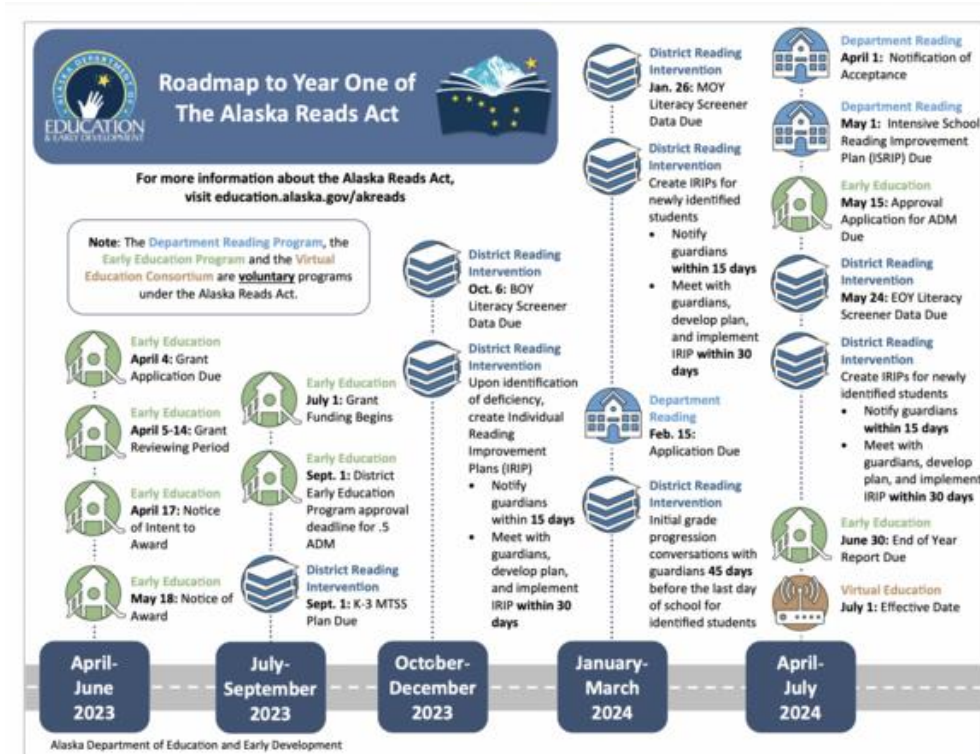
³⁸ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR). <https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/akstar>

³⁹ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. *Alaska Standards and Instruction*. <https://education.alaska.gov/standards>

As DEED transitions to this new assessment model of connecting fall and winter MAP Growth interim assessments to the spring AK STAR, the usual assessment timeline has been extended. Reports will be provided to districts in early March 2024, following the approval of cut scores from the State Board of Education and the completion of reporting with NWEA.

Implementing the Alaska Reads Act (HB 114, Chapter 40, SLA 2022)

Supporting all students to read at grade level by the end of third grade is the top priority identified in [Alaska's Education Challenge](https://education.alaska.gov/akedchallenge)⁴⁰. The [Alaska Reads Act](https://education.alaska.gov/akreads)⁴¹ (HB 114, Chapter 40, SLA 2022) became law on July 1, 2023. DEED's work to address pervasive issues in early literacy preceded the Alaska Reads Act, is occurring alongside the implementation of the law, and will continue in tandem with the requirements of the Alaska Reads Act in the future.



The four main components that strategically align for successful implementation of the Alaska Reads Act are listed below and described in subsections with more detail:

1. District Reading Intervention
2. Department Reading Program
3. Early Education
4. Distance Reading Consortium

⁴⁰ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. *Alaska's Education Challenge*. <https://education.alaska.gov/akedchallenge>

⁴¹ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. *The Alaska Reads Act*. <https://education.alaska.gov/akreads>

1. District Reading Intervention

Each school district is required to offer intensive reading intervention services based on the students in K-3 who exhibit a reading deficiency to assist students in achieving reading proficiency at or above grade level by the end of third grade. Intervention services must be based on the Science of Reading methodology. Reading intervention must be provided in addition to, not in replace of, the core reading instruction which is provided to all students in a general education classroom.

In order to identify which students need reading intervention, DEED has adopted a [Statewide Literacy Screening Tool](#)⁴² (mClass from Amplify) for the early detection of reading deficiencies, including characteristics of dyslexia. The literacy screening tool will be administered three times each school year to track students' literacy progress.

Students who demonstrate sufficient reading skills on the first screening of the school year will not have to repeat the screening. When a reading deficiency is identified, the district is responsible for notifying the student's parent or guardian and providing a Student Individual Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP)⁴³.

DEED chose mClass by Amplify as the state-provided literacy screener. 96% of school districts have adopted mClass as their screening tool; however, school districts can choose a different literacy screening tool if approved by DEED and paid for by the school district.

The statewide fall 2023 window for the literacy screener was open from September 4, 2023 through September 29, 2023. Although it is standard practice to administer a literacy screener in a two-week period, DEED provided four weeks for school districts because it was the first implementation of a new assessment process.

DEED is also offering professional development opportunities to meet the AK Reads Act requirements. DEED will provide up to 1,700 educator professional development opportunities, at no cost to the educators. One of those professional development opportunities is a DEED-sponsored Science of Reading course called [Keys to Literacy](#)⁴⁴. During the School Year 2023-2024, DEED will offer 11 cohorts of *Keys to Literacy*.

⁴² Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Reading Resources. *Statewide Early Literacy Screener*. <https://education.alaska.gov/alaska-reading-resources/Statewide-Early-Literacy-Screener>

⁴³ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. *Student Individual Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP) Template*. [https://education.alaska.gov/akreads/Individual-Reading-Improvement-Plan-\(IRIP\)-AKREADS-K3MTSS.pdf](https://education.alaska.gov/akreads/Individual-Reading-Improvement-Plan-(IRIP)-AKREADS-K3MTSS.pdf)

⁴⁴ Keys to Literacy. <https://keystoliteracy.com/alaska-reads-professional-development/>

The 2023 Alaska Science of Reading Symposium was a success with over 1,000 in-person attendees and 650 virtual attendees. The 2024 Alaska Science of Reading Symposium will be April 19-21, 2024 at the Anchorage Dena'ina Civic Convention Center.

2. Department Reading Program

DEED is required to implement a Department Reading Program and has established the Alyeska Reading Institute ([ARI](#)⁴⁵) to provide direct support and intervention services to the lowest 25% performing schools. Reading specialists from DEED will coach, train, and mentor teachers and school staff. Services will include both adult-centered support and student-centered tutoring. Additionally, DEED reading specialists will help create specific improvement goals for each school selected. The list of selected schools will be published in February 2024.

Carol Boatman was hired as the ARI Director. DEED is in the process of hiring and training teachers and tutors for the ARI program.

3. Early Education

The Alaska Reads Act directs DEED to establish an early education grant program – District-Wide Early Education Program ([DWEEP](#)⁵³) – to provide resources to district that are not adequately served by Head Start programs or other high-quality childcare.

DEED has created DWEEP standards and 0.5 average daily membership (ADM) approval requirements. DEED has provided webinars and other outreach to share this information widely with school districts. The grant application was released on March 7, 2023. The grant awardees must provide an End of Year Report on June 30, 2024. If a district program does not yet meet the standards, they can apply for an extension.

Seven grantees were awarded the voluntary 3-year grant program for the 2023-2024 school year:

- [Denali Borough School District](#)⁵⁴
- [Galena City School District](#)⁵⁵
- [Hydaburg City School District](#)⁵⁶
- [Iditarod Area School District](#)⁵⁷

⁴⁵ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. *Alyeska Reading Academy and Institute (ARI)*. <https://education.alaska.gov/alyeska-reading-academy-and-institute-ari>

⁵³ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Early Learning Programs. <https://education.alaska.gov/earlylearning>

⁵⁴ Denali Borough School District. <https://www.dbsd.org/>

⁵⁵ Galena City School District. <https://www.galenaalaska.org/>

⁵⁶ Hydaburg City School District. <https://www.hydaburg.k12.ak.us/>

⁵⁷ Iditarod Area School District. <https://www.iditarodsd.org/>

- [Kake City School District](#)⁵⁸
- [Kuspuk School District](#)⁵⁹
- [Lower Kuskokwim School District](#)⁶⁰

DEED received seven applications for 0.5 ADM funding for existing preschool programs. Only one application was approved, and notifications were sent out on September 1, 2023.

4. Distance Learning Consortium

DEED, in cooperation with school districts, is establishing a Distance Learning Consortium to provide distance learning and professional development opportunities to students and teachers. The Alaska Distance Learning Consortium (ADLC) regulation was adopted by the board on July 26, 2023.

An element of the ADLC regulations was the establishment of a governing board, DEED recruited a seven-member governing board to represent the differing geographic and demographic viewpoints around the state. The ADLC Governing Board met for the first time in October 2023 and will convene regularly to further develop the details of the consortium delivery model, consortium distance delivery standards, and tools and resources to support implementation statewide.

DEED has begun work with Edgepoint Learning, the [DEED eLearning](#)⁶¹ vendor, to develop a distance learning instructor course. This course will be designed to support educators in building their distance learning teaching strategies for successful remote delivery.

⁵⁸ Kake City School District. <https://www.kakeschools.com/>

⁵⁹ Kuspuk School District. <https://www.kuspuk.org/>

⁶⁰ Lower Kuskokwim School District. <https://www.lksd.org/>

⁶¹ DEED eLearning. <https://education.alaska.gov/elearning>

Advancing State-Tribal Education Compacting

The State Board of Education and the Department of Education and Early Development have made significant strides in the state-tribal education compact in alignment with SB 34 (Chapter 43, SLA 2022).

Compacting is a process through which the State of Alaska and an Alaskan Native Tribal entity enter into a government-to-government agreement that formally recognizes a Tribal entity's authority to operate and oversee K-12 schools. These State-Tribal Education Compact Schools (STECs) would be public schools open to all students and would offer a unique, culturally rich combination of Western and millennia-old tribal educational models.

In 2022, DEED conducted a grant Request For Application (RFA) to solicit for five State-Tribal Education Compact Demonstration Tribal Partners. Five strong applications were received. In March 2023, the State Board of Education approved partnering with the five tribes and providing a \$100,000 grant to each tribe for their participation:

- Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska ([CCTHITA](#)⁶²)
- Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope ([ICAS](#)⁶³)
- Ketchikan Indian Community ([KIC](#)⁶⁴)
- [King Island Native Community](#)⁶⁵
- [Knik Tribe](#)⁶⁶

In April 2023, negotiations began between DEED and the Tribal Partners. With these negotiations, DEED and the Tribal Partners will provide a report to the legislature that will demonstrate the necessary transformation of our educational system for a fully operational State-Tribal Education Compact School Pilot Program.

On November 6, 2023, Director of Tribal Affairs Joel Isaak provided a tribal compacting update to the House Tribal Affairs Committee.

⁶² Central Council Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA) Grant Application.

https://education.alaska.gov/tribalcompacting/Central%20Council%20Tlingit%20Haida_STEC_Application.pdf

⁶³ Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (ICAS) Grant Application.

[https://education.alaska.gov/tribalcompacting/Inupiat%20Community%20of%20the%20Arctic%20Slope%20\(ICAS\)_STEC_Application.pdf](https://education.alaska.gov/tribalcompacting/Inupiat%20Community%20of%20the%20Arctic%20Slope%20(ICAS)_STEC_Application.pdf)

⁶⁴ Ketchikan Indian Community (KIC) Grant Application.

https://education.alaska.gov/tribalcompacting/Ketchikan%20Indian%20Community_STEC_Application.pdf

⁶⁵ King Island Native Community Grant Application.

https://education.alaska.gov/tribalcompacting/King%20Island%20Native%20Community_STEC_Application.pdf

⁶⁶ Knik Tribe Grant Application.

https://education.alaska.gov/tribalcompacting/Knik%20STEC%20demonstation_STEC_Application.pdf

The Board will submit a report containing recommendations to the legislature relating to State-Tribal education compacting no later than January 31, 2024

Improving Teacher Retention and Recruitment

In September 2023, DEED published the [Alaska Teacher Retention and Recruitment \(TRR\) Playbook](#)⁶⁷ with the purpose of identifying practical, professional, and policy recommendations to address Alaska’s persistent issues with teacher retention and recruitment.

The TRR Playbook is a result of the research, survey data, and action plan created by the Governor’s Teacher Retention and Recruitment Working Group, which was formed in 2020.

The TRR Playbook was created from the input of hundreds of stakeholders. The survey itself gathered information from over 4,000 current and former educators. Contributors of the final TRR Playbook included teachers, principals, superintendents, school board members, students, home school participants, special education participants, university members, and State government officials.

It is a 50-page document that describes strategies that the State and districts may use to retain and attract teachers. Sections include strengthening organizational health, working conditions, leadership, retirement, recruitment enhancement, alternative and streamlining certification, with links to sources, resources, and additional information. Information is organized both by recommendation categories and stakeholder categories.

The Board, after reviewing the final TRR Playbook, has stated its goals in implementing the provided recommendations and sharing the knowledge widely with other stakeholder groups.

⁶⁷ Alaska’s Teacher Retention and Recruitment Playbook. August 31, 2023. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1CQ7SqWKJr4Y23stpysYjvgLs - KV42OOCZYpLLjgytw/edit?pli=1#heading=h.tjaf5n904fsi>

OTHER DEPARTMENT FUNCTIONS

Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS)

Mt. Edgecumbe [High School \(MEHS⁶⁸\)](#) in Sitka is the only State-operated residential school. The Board serves as the MEHS board. There is also a [MEHS Advisory Board⁶⁹](#) comprised up of stakeholder groups, including parents, community representatives, alumni, student representative, and a representative from the State Board of Education (Board). The 2023-2024 school year consists of 407 students from 108 different communities across Alaska.

Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA)

The Alaska State Council on the Arts ([ASCA⁷⁰](#)) supports educators, artists, community-based organizations, and statewide partners in delivery of arts education in schools and communities. ASCA awards funding to Alaskan schools, districts, educators, and organizations in several categories. Other grants to communities also serve students through school outreach and education programs provided by Alaskan arts and culture organizations.

The Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (LAM)

The Division of Libraries, Archives, and Museums ([LAM⁷¹](#)) offers library and information services to state agencies and the Legislature; employs consultants who assist local libraries, archives, and museums to develop their own services and programs; operates the state museums as a service to Alaskans and the tourism industry; provides for the orderly management of current state records; and preserves state government's public records of permanent value for study and research.

Additionally, LAM provides a range of services that benefit lifelong learners and K-12 and postsecondary students. Examples are:

- The School Broadband Assistance Grant ([BAG⁷²](#)) program [authorized through AS 14.03.127 Funding for internet services](#) provides funds to help schools get up to 25 mbps. [Alaska's Digital Archives⁷³](#) shares digitized versions of more than 102,000 historical Alaskan videos, photographs, and documents with students and researchers.

⁶⁸ Mt. Edgecumbe High School. <http://www.mehs.us/>

⁶⁹ Mt. Edgecumbe High School. *Advisory Board*. https://www.mehs.us/about_us/advisory_board

⁷⁰ Alaska State Council on the Arts (ASCA). <https://education.alaska.gov/aksca/>

⁷¹ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Alaska State Libraries, Archives, & Museums (LAM). <https://lam.alaska.gov/home>

⁷² Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Alaska State Libraries, Archives, & Museums (LAM). School Broadband Assistance Grants Program. <https://lam.alaska.gov/schoolbag>

⁷³ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Libraries, Archives, and Museums. *Alaska State Archives*. <https://archives.alaska.gov/>

- [Alaska’s Statewide Library Electronic Doorway \(SLED\) Databases](#) and the [Alaska Digital Library](#)⁷⁴ contain hundreds of full-text online books, magazines, newspapers, and other research resources targeted to elementary, middle school, high school, and college students’ academic needs.
 - SLED provides [Live Homework Help](#)⁷⁵ as a resource for live tutoring for students in grades four to early college, seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 2 a.m.
- The Alaska Online With Libraries ([OWL](#)⁷⁶) program provides rural public libraries with high-speed internet access and Zoom capabilities to host events and meetings.

Professional Teaching Practices Commission (PTPC)

The Alaska Professional Teaching Practices Commission ([PTPC](#)⁷⁷) governs educators’ ethical and professional standards and their compliance with state law and contractual obligations. Certificate holders fund the Commission. The Commission reports by fiscal year. In FY2023, it accepted 48 cases to be investigated and sanctioned 18 educators. The number of educators sanctioned is above the yearly average of 13 sanctioned educators over the past 15 years. Sanctions may vary from warnings to suspensions and revocations of certificates. View the FY2023 Annual Report at [2023 PTPC Annual Report](#)⁷⁸.

⁷⁴ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Libraries, Archives, and Museums. *Alaska Digital Library*. <https://adl.overdrive.com/>

⁷⁵ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Libraries, Archives, and Museums. Statewide Library Electronic Doorway (SLED). *Live Homework Help*. <https://lam.alaska.gov/sled/homework>

⁷⁶ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Libraries, Archives, and Museums. Alaska Online With Libraries (OWL) Program. <https://lam.alaska.gov/owl/home>

⁷⁷ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Libraries, Archives, and Museums. Professional Teaching Practices Commission. <https://education.alaska.gov/ptpc>

⁷⁸ Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Libraries, Archives, and Museums. Alaska Professional Teaching Practices Commission (PTPC). *Alaska Professional Teaching Practices Commission Annual Report 2023*. <https://education.alaska.gov/ptpc/pdf/PTPC%202023%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

SCHOOL AND STUDENT DATA

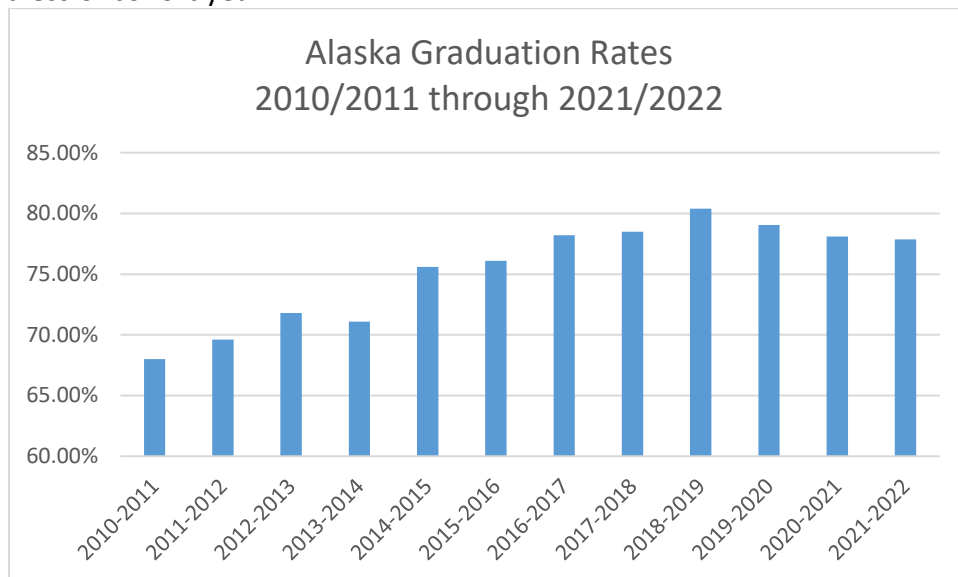
Graduation and Dropout Rates

All states are federally required to report a four-year graduation rate for cohorts of students. Alaska has reported this data since the 2010-2011 school year. A student who entered 9th grade in the 2015-2016 school year would be a member of the 2019 cohort. Cohort groups include students who transfer into an Alaska public school.

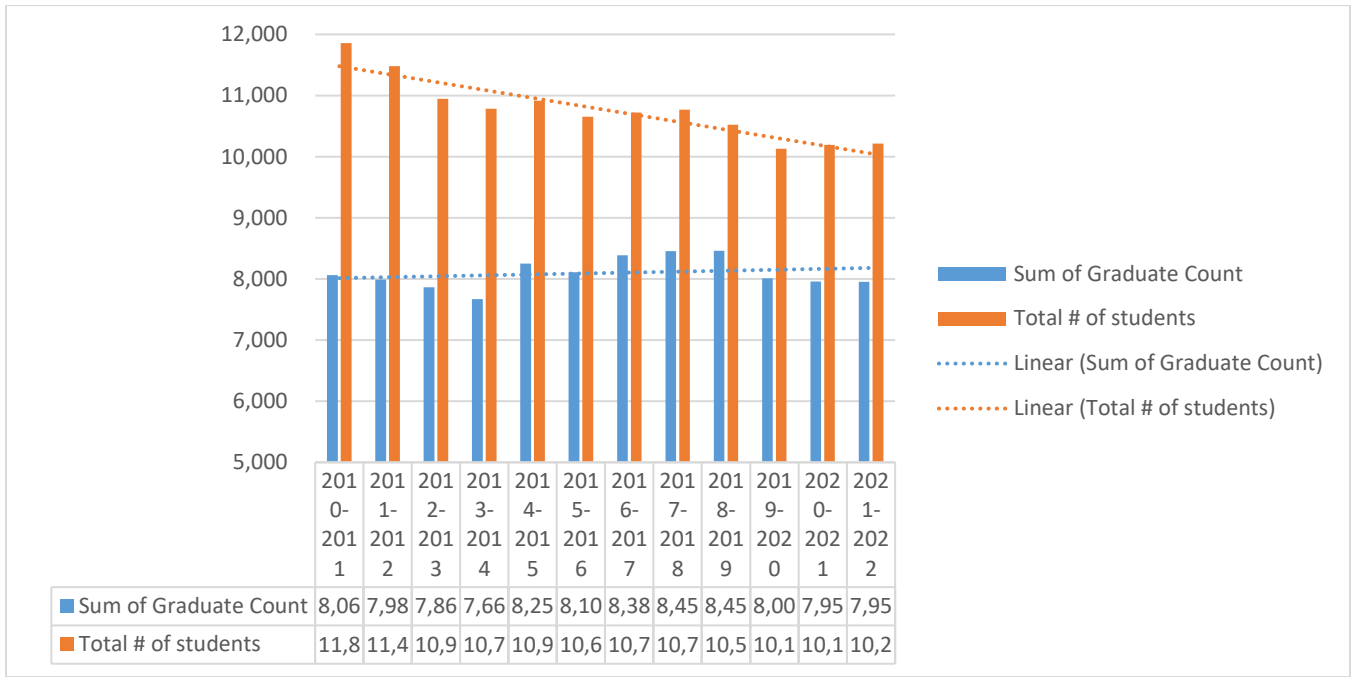
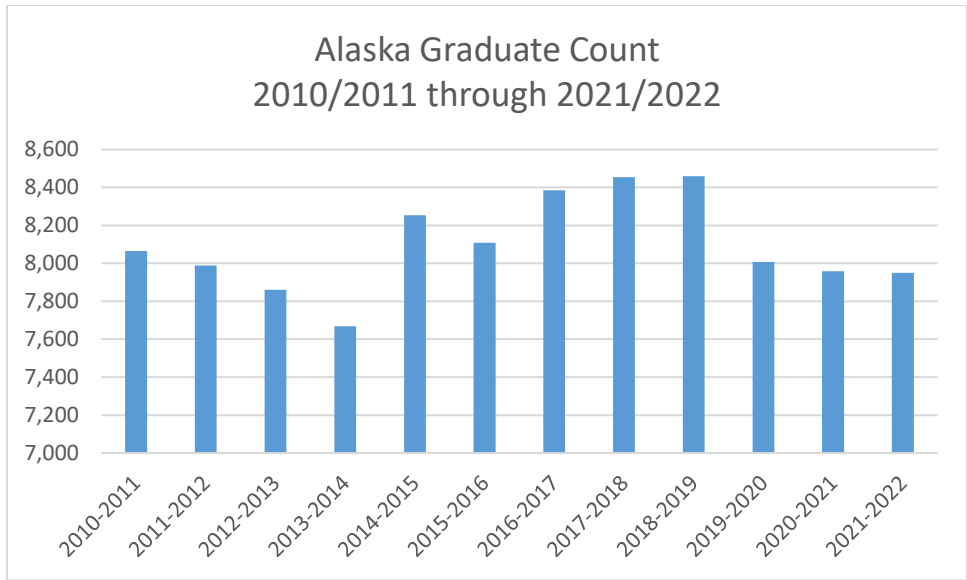
The graduation rate is calculated as the number of graduates in the cohort who receive a regular diploma by June 30, divided by the number of all students assigned to the cohort.

A graduate is defined as a student who has received a regular diploma from a state or district approved education program; this does not include a student who receives a certificate of achievement or Alternative High School Diploma, also known as a General Educational Development ([GED](#)⁷⁹) certificate.

Graduate count is the number of students who graduated with a regular diploma during the school year (July 1-June 30). This count includes all students who graduate during the school year, regardless of cohort year.



⁷⁹ Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DLWD). Employment and Training Services. *General Educational Development Testing*. <https://jobs.alaska.gov/aae/ged.htm>



School Year	Graduation Rate	Graduate Count	Total # of Students
2010-2011	68.00%	8,064	11,859
2011-2012	69.60%	7,989	11,478
2012-2013	71.80%	7,861	10,948
2013-2014	71.10%	7,668	10,785
2014-2015	75.6%	8,253	10,917
2015-2016	76.1%	8,108	10,654
2016-2017	78.20%	8,385	10,723

2017-2018	78.50%	8,454	10,769
2018-2019	80.40%	8,459	10,521
2019-2020	79.04%	8,008	10,132
2020-2021	78.09%	7,958	10,191
2021-2022	77.85%	7,950	10,212

Dropout rates are calculated by taking the total number of students in grades 7-12 who drop out of public school during the school year and dividing by the October 1 enrollment count for all students in grades 7-12.

A student is **not** considered a dropout if his or her departure was due to the completion of a state- or district-approved education program; transfer to a public school, private school, or state- or district- approved education program; temporary absence caused by suspension, illness, or medical condition; or death. A student in pursuit of a General Educational Development (GED) certificate is considered a dropout, as defined by the National Center for Education Statistics. A student who drops out multiple times during a school year is only counted once in the dropout ratenumerator.

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Dropout Rate</u>	<u>Dropout Count (Grades 7-12)</u>
2010-2011	4.70%	2,779
2011-2012	4.80%	2,830
2012-2013	4.00%	2,364
2013-2014	4.00%	2,303
2014-2015	3.70%	2,141
2015-2016	3.90%	2,268
2016-2017	3.50%	2,003
2017-2018	3.08%	1,784
2018-2019	3.01%	1,730
2019-2020	2.75%	1,590
2020-2021	3.11%	1,806
2021-2022	3.68%	2,164

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Every two years the U.S. Department of Education, through the National Assessment of Educational Progress ([NAEP](#)⁸⁰), tests large samples of 4th-graders and 8th-graders in each state (plus the District of Columbia and Department of Defense schools) in reading and mathematics. The most recent NAEP results were released in 2022.

NAEP's state and nationwide results are presented as average scores on a scale of 000 to 500. The scale scores fall into four categories of achievement as defined by NAEP: advanced, proficient, basic, and below basic. Thus, NAEP also reports the percentage of students who fall within those achievement categories.

NAEP's definition of proficiency is rigorous. In NAEP, *basic* refers to partial mastery of the subject. *Proficient* refers to competency in challenging material, including knowledge, application, and analytical skills. *Advanced* is superior performance.

- In the highest-scoring state, 43% of its students scored proficient or advanced in 4th-grade reading;
- In the highest-scoring state, 42% of its students scored proficient or advanced in 8th-grade reading;
- In the highest-scoring state, 44% of its students scored proficient or advanced in 4th-grade math; and
- In the highest-scoring state, 35% of its students scored proficient or advanced in 8th-grade math.

NAEP summarizes a state's results by the number of states (plus D.C. and Department of Defense schools) it has scored *lower than*, *statistically the same as*, and *higher than*.

- In 4th grade math, Alaska scored lower than 40 states, statistically the same as 10 states, and higher than 1 state.
- In 8th grade math, Alaska scored lower than 24 states, statistically the same as 20 states, and higher than 7 states.
- In 4th grade reading, Alaska scored lower than 44 states and statistically the same as 5 state.

⁸⁰ U.S. Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics. *National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)*. <https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>

- In 8th grade reading, Alaska scored lower than 37 states, statistically the same as 13 states, and higher than 1 state.

The following data, comparing Alaska results to the national average, are from results released in 2022. Alaska's performance on the NAEP is poor. It is similar to the national average because that also is poor. Some states perform notably better than Alaska and the national average. DEED has cited Alaska's performance on NAEP as one indication of the need to implement higher standards in English language arts and math.

[4th Grade Reading NAEP Results](#)⁸¹

Alaska 4th grade: 51% basic or above; 24% proficient or above; 5% advanced.
Nation 4th grade: 61% basic or above; 32% proficient or above; 8% advanced.
Alaska's average scale score is 204. The national average is 216.

[8th Grade Reading NAEP Results](#)⁸²

Alaska 8th grade: 63% basic or above; 26% proficient or above; 3% advanced.
Nation 8th grade: 68% basic or above; 29% proficient or above; 3% advanced.
Alaska's average scale score is 253. The national average is 259.

[4th Grade Math NAEP Results](#)⁸³

Alaska 4th grade: 65% basic or above; 28% proficient or above; 5% advanced.
Nation 4th grade: 74% basic or above; 35% proficient or above; 7% advanced.
Alaska's average scale score is 226. The national average is 235.

[8th Grade Math NAEP Results](#)⁸⁴

Alaska 8th grade: 59% basic or above; 23% proficient or above; 5% advanced.
Nation 8th grade: 61% basic or above; 26% proficient or above; 7% advanced.
Alaska's average scale score is 270. The national average is 273.

⁸¹ Alaska Department of Education. *2022 Reading State Snapshot Report, Alaska, Grade 4, Public Schools*. U.S. Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics. *National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)*. https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/snapshot_RED2022AK_4.pdf

⁸² Alaska Department of Education. *2022 Reading State Snapshot Report, Alaska, Grade 8, Public Schools*. U.S. Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics. https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/snapshot_RED2022AK_8.pdf

⁸³ Alaska Department of Education. *2022 Mathematics State Snapshot Report, Alaska, Grade 4, Public Schools*. U.S. Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics. *National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)*. https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/snapshot_MAT2022AK_4.pdf

⁸⁴ Alaska Department of Education. *2022 Mathematics State Snapshot Report, Alaska, Grade 8, Public Schools*. U.S. Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics. *National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)*. https://education.alaska.gov/assessments/snapshot_MAT2022AK_8.pdf