

Early Education Program (EEP) Grants

Purpose

The purpose of the Alaska Reads Act Early Education Program (EEP) Grant is to provide training and assistance for a three-year period for the development or improvement of classroom-based district-wide early education programs. Grantees work towards implementing the Alaska Early Education Program Standards and employing teacher(s) with appropriate and required certification. Upon successful completion of grant requirements, districts will be approved by the Department to count four- and five-year old students in the average daily membership count for formula funding.

Grant Structure

- Three-year grant cycle
- \$3 million total, per year, funded by legislative appropriation

Eligibility

Any Alaskan public school district that has not previously received the Early Education Program Grant or been approved by the Department to count four- and five-year old students in the average daily membership count for formula funding is eligible to apply.

Per [Sec 14.03.410](#), an Alaska school district is encouraged to apply if it:

- Wants to develop or improve a classroom based early education program;
- Has insufficient high-quality childcare programming (e.g. Head Start) to serve all children within the district boundaries;
- Has consulted with each local and tribal Head Start program within district boundaries.
 - See DEED Form [#05-26-019](#) for consultation guidance

Determination of Recipients

- Competitive grant with scoring rubric
- Priority given to the lowest performing school districts according to DEED's accountability and performance system [Sec 14.03.410(c)]
- The Department must determine that an insufficient number of children in the district attend high-quality childcare programs, including Head Start programs [Sec 14.03.410(c)]

Current EEP Grant Recipients

July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026	July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2027
Denali Borough School District	Alaska Gateway School District
Galena City School District	Northwest Arctic Borough School District
Hydaburg City School District	
Iditarod Area School District	
Kake City School District	
Kuspuk School District	
Lower Kuskokwim School District	

Application

Districts will use the FY27-FY29 Alaska Early Learning Grants Application to apply. See <https://education.alaska.gov/earlylearning/funding-options> for application materials and resources.

Due date for the FY27-FY29 Alaska Early Learning Grants Application: April 20, 2026

Contact jayne.mcfarland@alaska.gov or (907) 269-7974 for additional information.