

Foundation Formula Funding for Preschool Students

Since 2022, district-wide early education programs may be approved by the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) to count preschool students for formula funding [[Sec 14.17.500\(d\)](#)].

- DEED must approve a district-wide program based on the eligibility criteria described below [[Sec 14.07.020\(a\)\(8\)](#)].
- Eligible 4- and 5-year-old students enrolled in preschool classrooms will be counted at a rate of one-half of a full-time student or 0.5 average daily membership (ADM) [[Sec 14.17.500\(d\)](#)].
- A district may include eligible students in the fall OASIS count for formula funding in the same year it is approved.

This funding source is commonly referred to as Preschool ADM, 0.5 ADM, EEP-ADM, and early education ADM aid.

Funding Structure

Annual legislative appropriation [[Sec 14.17.500\(f\)](#)].

Approval is a required condition for Preschool ADM aid, but it is not a guarantee of payment in a given fiscal year. Statute establishes a statewide limitation on the total amount of early education ADM aid that may be generated from one year to the next. When the total eligible amount across all approved districts exceeds that statutory growth limit and the available appropriation, the department is not authorized to fully fund every approved district. When funding is insufficient, distribution must be prioritized using each district's state accountability index score, which is a composite performance measure derived from statewide assessment results, student growth, graduation indicators, and related accountability metrics.

Approval Process

DEED uses two avenues to identify and approve districts that meet eligibility requirements:

- Early Education Program Grant
- Preschool ADM Application

Fully approved districts meet all eligibility criteria. They may count eligible students in the average daily membership count for a three-year period. They will re-apply every three years via a short-form reapplication process [[4 AAC 60.210\(i\)](#)].

Conditionally approved districts are working towards meeting all eligibility criteria. They may count eligible preschoolers in the average daily membership count. However, they will re-apply annually until fully approved.

Eligibility

To be approved, district-wide early education programs will:

- Successfully implement the [Alaska Early Education Program Standards](#) [[Sec 14.07.165\(a\)\(5\)\(A\)](#)]; and
- Employ early education teacher(s) with the required and current teacher certification, including the Alaska Reads Act Early Education Lead endorsement [[Sec 14.07.165\(a\)\(5\)\(B\)](#)].
 - See [Teacher Certification](#)
 - See [Teacher Certification: Available Endorsements](#)
 - See [Alaska Reads Act Endorsements: Alaska Reads Act Early Education Lead](#)
 - [Early Education Program Staffing Guidance](#)

Eligible districts and preschool programs will NOT:

- Receive other state or federal funding specifically for pre-kindergarten programs [[Sec 14.17.500\(e\)](#)].
- Fund a program operated by Head Start. Districts are encouraged to collaborate or partner with local or tribal Head Start programs. However, formula funding will only be granted to programs operated by school districts [[4 AAC 60.210\(g\)](#)].

See additional guidance at [Early Learning: Alaska Reads Act](#).

Preschool ADM Application Timeline

- **Applications available:** Fall 2026
- **Applications due:** January 29, 2027, 11:59pm
- **Notification of approval:** on or before September 1.

Notice: Timeline will change for FY28. Applications for FY28 will be due the last Friday in January 2027. Previous applications were due May 15.

Application Materials and Resources

- **Request an application:** available fall 2026
- **Sample application:** [DEED Form # 05-26-027](#)
- **Technical Assistance Webinar:** to be determined

Contact earlylearning@alaska.gov for additional information.

Current Districts Approved for Preschool ADM

Starting Fall 2023 Starting Fall 2024 Starting Fall 2025

Anchorage S.D. Skagway City S.D. Annette Island S.D.

Valdez City S.D. Bering Strait S.D.

Chatham S.D.

Fairbanks North Star
Borough S.D.

Kenai Peninsula Borough
S.D.

Ketchikan Gateway
Borough S.D.

Matanuska Susitna
Borough S.D.

North Slope Borough S.D.

Petersburg S.D.

Southeast Island S.D.