

Introduction to the AK Reads Act: Pre-Elementary Components

Early Education Program Standards and Funding

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Division of Innovation and Education Excellence



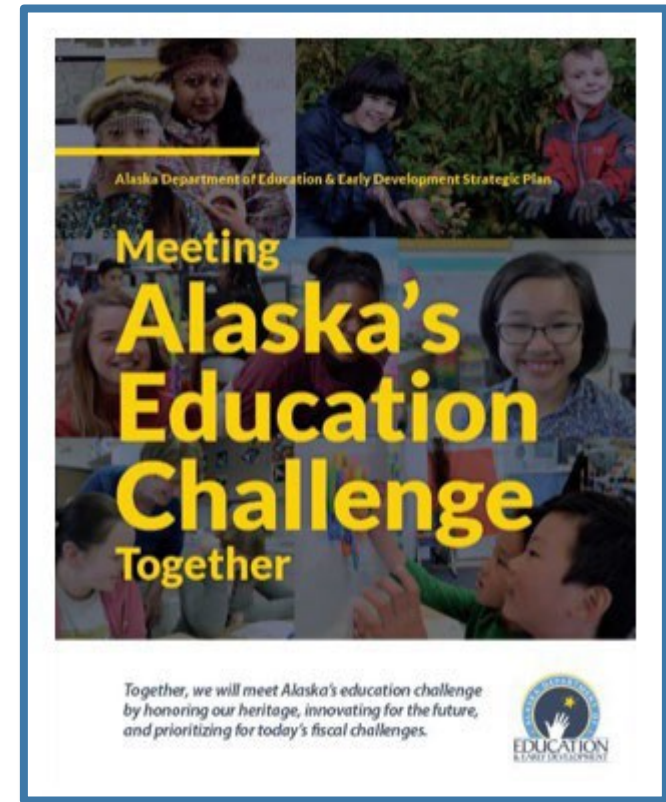
Mission, Vision, and Purpose

Mission	Vision	Purpose
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	DEED exists to provide information, resources, and leadership to support an excellent education for every student every day.

Strategic Priorities: Alaska's Education Challenge

Five Shared Priorities:

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.



education.alaska.gov/akedchallenge

Three Alaska Reads Act Pre-Elementary Components



Alaska Reads
#akreads

House Bill 114, Chapter 40, SLA 2022
Passed May, 2022

Alaska Early Education Program Standards

A framework for early education programs
operated by school districts.

Effective July 1, 2023

EEP Grant Program

Provides resources to districts that are
working to implement the EEP Standards.

Began 2023-2024 school year

Preschool ADM Funding

Allocated for programs that meet the EEP
Standards.

Began 2023-2024 school year

Alaska Early Education Program Standards

**Additional guidance at
[Alaska Early Education
Program Standards](#)
webpage.**

Alaska Early Education Program Standards

The [Alaska Early Education Program \(EEP\) Standards](#)

- Were prepared in response to statute passed May 2022.
[{AS 14.07.165\(a\)\(5\)\(A\)}](#)
- Were developed by a team of Alaskan stakeholders across the course of a year.
- Meet statutory and regulatory requirements.
- Incorporate requirements unique to Alaska's needs.

The EEP Standards were adopted by the State Board of Education and took effect July 1, 2023. A revision was adopted in October 2025 in response to changes in the Statute and feedback from districts.

(A) standards for a locally designed, evidence-based program that meets federal standards required for early education programs to receive federal funding;

Alaska Early Education Program Standards

Purpose:

- Provide a framework for district-wide early education programs that provide pre-elementary classrooms.
- Provide criteria for DEED to approve districts to count 4- and 5- years old pre-elementary students in the OASIS count for formula funding. {[AS 14.07.02\(a\)\(8\)](#)}

Alaska Early Education Program Standards

Sections:

Section I: Standards required to qualify for formula funding

- I. Learning Environment
- II. Suspension and Expulsion
- III. Curricula
- IV. Developmental Screening
- V. Assessment
- VI. Family Engagement
- VII. Continuous Quality Improvement

Section II: Supplemental Standards

- I. Early Childhood Coaching
- II. Mental Health Consultation

Alaska Early Education Program Standards

Key Points:

Teacher-child interactions

Family engagement

Evidence-based methods

Five developmental domains

Systems and procedures

Early Education Program Grant (EEP Grant)

**Additional guidance and link to
application at**

<https://education.alaska.gov/earlylearning/alaska-reads-act>

Early Education Program Grant (EEP Grant)

- Purpose:
 - Develop or improve district-wide early education programs.
 - Become eligible for stable funding (Preschool ADM) by implementing the EEP Standards and other eligibility criteria.
- Eligibility:
 - Districts with children unserved by existing quality pre-elementary programs.
 - Districts who have consulted with all Head Start programs operating within district boundaries.
- Preference given to:
 - Lower performing districts
- Structure:
 - Three-year grant cycle.
 - Legislative appropriation of \$3 million annually.

[AS 14.03.410](#)

Early Education Program Grant (EEP Grant)

Cohort 1 (FY24-26)

- Denali Borough School District
- Galena City School District
- Hydaburg City School District
- Iditarod Area School District
- Kake City School District
- Kuspuk School District
- Lower Kuskokwim School District

Cohort 2 (FY25-27)

- Alaska Gateway School District
- Northwest Arctic School District

Formula Funding for Preschool, 0.5 ADM

**Additional guidance and link to
application at**

<https://education.alaska.gov/earlylearning/alaska-reads-act>

Preschool ADM Funding

District-wide programs meeting eligibility criteria may be approved to count enrolled 4- and 5-year-olds in the average daily membership count for purposes of formula funding.

(d) Except as provided in (e) – (g) of this section, a student in a district-wide early education program provided by a school district and approved by the department under [AS 14.07.020](#)(a)(8) is counted as one-half of a full-time equivalent student.

[AS 14.17.500\(d\)](#)

Purpose: Stable funding for preschool classrooms operated by school districts.

Preschool ADM Funding

Requirements:

- Implement Alaska Early Education Program Standards; and,
- Employ teacher(s) with the required and current teacher certification, including the Alaska Reads Act Early Education Lead Endorsement.

Resources and Guidance:

- <https://education.alaska.gov/earlylearning/alaska-reads-act>
- [Preschool ADM/Formula Funding Guidance](#)
- [Early Education Program Staffing Guidance](#)
- [AK Reads Early Education Lead Teacher Endorsement](#)

Preschool ADM Funding

Not eligible:

- Districts receiving other state or federal funding specifically for pre-kindergarten programs, [AS 14.17.500\(f\)](#).
- Programs not operated by a school district, [4 AAC 60.210\(g\)](#).

Local/State/Federal Funding Sources [AS 14.17.500(e)]	
Allowable	Not Allowable
• Title I, Part A funds • Title I, Part C Migrant Education Program funds • Comprehensive Literacy State Development Program Grants (CLSD) • Local funding	• Federal Grants that go directly to the district for pre-kindergarten purposes only • State Pre-Elementary Grant • State Early Education Program Grant • Head Start State or Federal Grant

Preschool ADM Funding

Structure:

- Applications are submitted by *district-wide* early education programs.
- Applications are accepted annually.
- Applicants are notified of approval by September 1.
- Successful applicants will include preschool students in the fall OASIS count in the same year of approval.
- Approved districts will certify annually that their early education program continues to comply with eligibility criteria.
- Conditionally Approved districts will submit an application annually.
- Fully Approved districts will submit a reapplication every three years.

[4 AAC 60.210\(c\).](#)

Guidance at

<https://education.alaska.gov/earlylearning/alaska-reads-act>

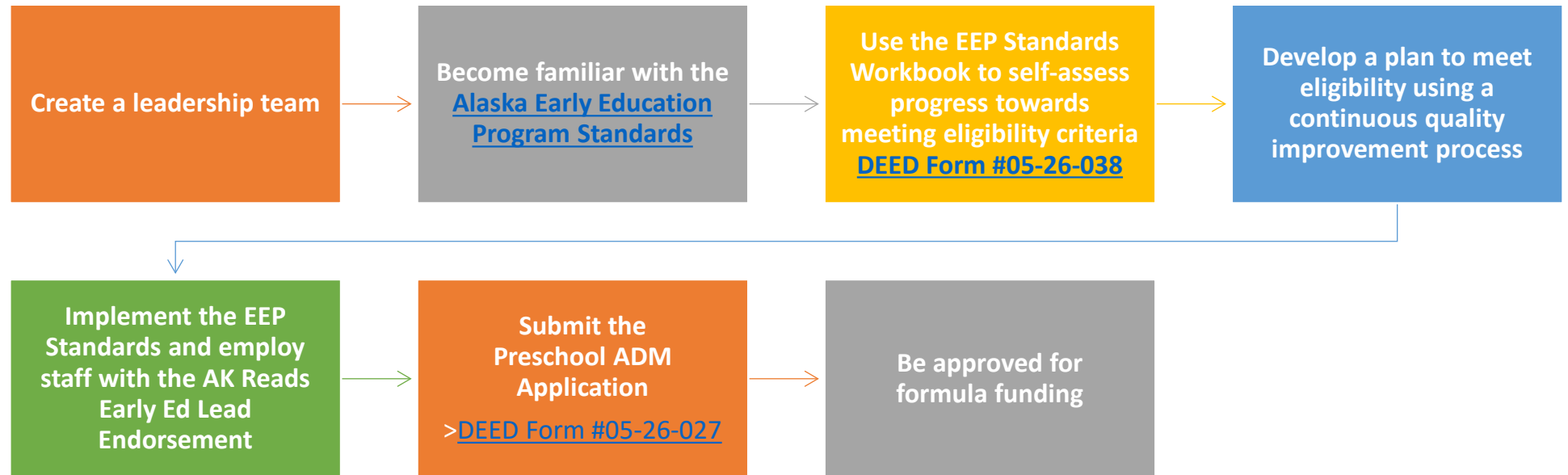
Preschool ADM Funding

Districts currently approved to receive Preschool ADM Funding:

- Anchorage
- Annette Island
- Bering Strait
- Chatham
- Fairbanks North Star Borough
- Kenai Peninsula Borough
- Ketchikan Gateway Borough
- Matanuska Borough
- North Slope Borough
- Petersburg
- Skagway
- Southeast Island
- Valdez

- The 2023-2024 school year was the first year districts were approved for Preschool ADM funding.
- Additional districts are approved through an annual application process.

Steps towards Preschool ADM Funding



Helpful Hints to apply for Preschool ADM

Start Early

- Some components of the EEP Standards have a time frame; the earliest occurs prior to students starting school.
- *Many* components of the EEP Standards require written policy or procedure; writing and approval take time.
- Employing teacher(s) with the required certification takes time.

Utilize a team to:

- Analyze the current preschool program.
- Meet EEP Standards.
- Complete the application for Preschool ADM Approval

Additional Resources

Welcome to the

Early Learning Programs Page

education.alaska.gov/earlylearning



Early Learning

[education.alaska.gov/
earlylearning](http://education.alaska.gov/earlylearning)

Explore the Site

[Early Learning Home](#)

[Alaska Reads Act](#) ←

[Alaska Early Education Program Standards](#) ←

[Early Learning Resources](#)

[Early Learning Screening and Assessment](#)

[Family Resources](#)

[Head Start](#)

[Legislative Funding](#)

[Pre-Elementary Approval](#)

[Program Funding Options](#) ←

Early Education Program Standards Workbook

DEED Form # 05-26-038

[EEP Standards Workbook, revised June 2026](#)

Purpose:

- Become familiar with the EEP Standards
- Self-Assess implementation of the Standards
- Organize work towards meeting eligibility for
Preschool ADM
- Facilitate collaboration between
district and DEED staff
- Prepare to apply for Preschool ADM

Head Start Consultation

Planning to apply for the Early Education Program Grant?

Consultation between school districts and any Head Start agency operating within the district is a requirement.

CONSULTATION FORM AND GUIDANCE

DEED form #05-26-019

[hyperlink](#)



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Jayne McFarland

- EEP Grant Manager
- Preschool ADM Application
- EEP Standards

Stay Connected



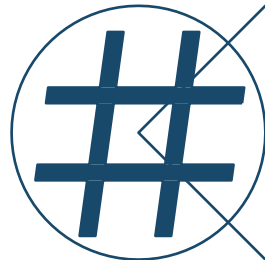
Website

- education.alaska.gov



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Social Media

- @AlaskaDEED