

DRAFT

Alaska Education Plan

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From the
Department of
Education

Vision

Vision: An Alaska education opens a world of possibilities.

- Our parents value learning
- Our communities support dreams and create opportunities
- Our schools inspire thinking
- Our graduates build the future

World-Class Students Graduation Outcomes

Possess a broad knowledge base

- Know and be able to discuss the critical bodies of knowledge in art, science, literature/language arts, history, geography and health in addition to being skilled in reading, writing, and mathematics
- Apply content knowledge to everyday situations
- Use prior knowledge to acquire new knowledge, develop new skills, and expand understanding

Communicate effectively

- Express ideas clearly, both verbally and in writing
- Communicate through listening and discussion with others
- Read, understand and respond to written information
- Understand and respond to verbal information

Use technology skills

- Use a broad range of technologies to pursue interests, investigate and solve problems, and communicate and share ideas
- Be personally accountable for the ethical use of technology
- Use the Internet to explore questions; collect, evaluate and select information sources; synthesize conclusions; and communicate the results

Be a responsible and ethical citizen

- Understand and participate in the democratic process
- Demonstrate respect for people and cultures
- Demonstrate respect for the environment and evaluate the use of resources
- Take responsibility for personal actions and understand the impact those actions have on others
- Demonstrate an ability to approach problems from a global perspective
- Be an effective and responsible decision-maker who contributes to the community
- Adapt to a diverse and changing world

Be an enthusiastic learner

- Make a commitment to create quality work and strive for excellence
- Use a variety of learning strategies, personal skills, and time management skills to enhance learning
- Reflect on and evaluate learning for self-improvement
- Understand the relevance of learning a broad range of skills

Goal

All students will graduate prepared for careers or postsecondary training and education.

Actions

1. Ensure that families, if they desire, can access in their community affordable, high-quality early care and learning programs for children ages 3-5.
2. Define an education system, aligned from preschool to postsecondary, that ensures all students are prepared to transition to the next level of education, career, or life path of their choice.
3. Review the state's academic standards to determine alignment with world-class 21st century skills and Alaska's graduation outcomes.
4. Establish partnerships that enhance readiness for postsecondary education, career preparation, and life.
5. Develop a staff development infrastructure that is collaborative, need-based, research-proven, and provides opportunities for continuous growth for new and experienced teachers.
6. Ensure that public and private postsecondary institutions, business and industry, tribal organizations and state agencies work collaboratively to develop and maintain a coherent educational plan designed to achieve Alaska's high education expectations.
7. Collaborate with Alaska's postsecondary institutions to ensure that education-related degree programs and staff development programs reflect research, best practices, Alaska's diverse cultures, and alignment to academic standards, and are sufficient in scale and scope to meet the public school work force needs.
8. Empower students by engaging them as active partners in their own learning through technology.
9. Ensure that teachers have the training to effectively use technology to support instruction.
10. Establish and maintain a statewide public telecommunications network that provides the opportunity for instruction, communication and distance education.
11. Ensure that the state foundation funding program is comprehensible to the public, sufficient to meet world-class performance expectations, responsive to the changing needs of Alaska's work force, and predictable enough to facilitate effective planning.
12. Provide consistent funding for school construction and major maintenance projects.

5. Ensure that Alaska's standards for culturally responsive schools are applied.
6. Provide new and experienced educators with sufficient training and ongoing support to integrate and instruct within the context of a community's indigenous cultures.
7. Ensure that schools' instruction, organization and operational procedures reflect and respond to student, family and community values and needs.
8. Support opportunities for school choice, education alternatives and distance-delivery options that are high quality, standards-based and flexible to meet the individual needs of a child or family.
9. Provide support and resources for parents who choose to home school their children.
10. Create a sustainable infrastructure committed to developing and maintaining partnerships that enhance student success.

3. Implement nutrition and physical activity programs to ensure that students develop patterns of lifelong healthy behaviors.
4. Ensure that students, staff and community members are provided safe and secure schools.