

TEACHING & LEARNING SUPPORT FOR ALASKA'S EDUCATORS:

[www.aklearns.org](http://www.aklearns.org)

# COVID-19 Update

**Alaska Department of Education and Early Development**  
**Dr. Michael Johnson, Commissioner**

**March 20, 2020**

# Agenda



**INTRODUCTION**



**MAJOR  
EDUCATION  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**INDEED:  
COMMUNICATIONS  
& RESOURCES**



**“HOT TOPICS”**



**MESSAGE TO OUR  
STUDENTS**



**Q&A**

# Introduction

“The only expectation of public education that eclipses its responsibility to provide an excellent education for every student every day is to take all necessary steps to **ensure the health and safety of every student** every day.”

- *DEED Memo to Alaska Public School Families and Staff, dated March 13, 2020*

<https://education.alaska.gov/news/pdf/3-13-2020-DEED-COVID-19-Memo-to-Alaska-Public-Schools.pdf>



# Major Education Announcements

- First Health Mandate - March 13, 2020
- Second Health Mandate - March 16, 2020

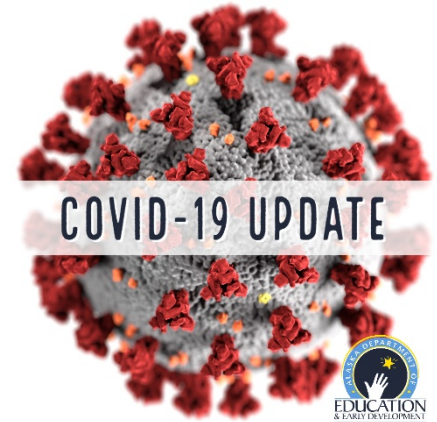


# InDEED Communication Efforts

- DHSS Unified Command Conference Calls
- Internal Emergency Response Team
- In-State:
  - Daily group calls with superintendents (ASA)
  - Individual calls with district and school staff
  - Social media messaging (@AlaskaDEED)
  - Online resources – webinars, videos
  - ...and growing daily!
- Nation:
  - Twice-weekly calls with the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and U.S. ED



# Health & Safety Information & Resources



- DEED POC: Todd Brocious, School Health and Safety Education Administrator, (907) 465-2887
- <https://education.alaska.gov/safeschools/infectiousdisease>

## Support for Distance and Remote Teaching and Learning



DEED launched a Teaching & Learning Support site to offer information, resources, and leadership to teachers and school leaders across Alaska.

The site serves as a clearinghouse where we share great ideas gleaned from a variety of locations and sources.





# Teaching & Learning Support

Increasing Student Achievement through Innovation & Instructional Excellence

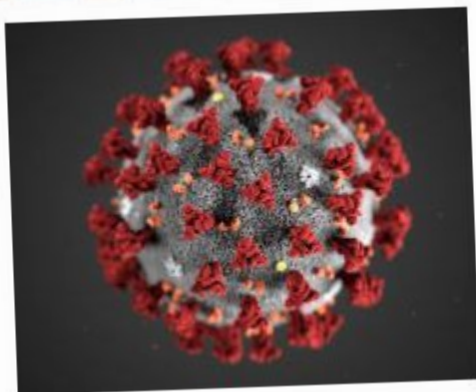


## TIME to plan:

To prevent or slow the spread of **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**, the State of Alaska issued its first health mandate on March 13, 2020. The mandate dictates that all scheduled public school days starting March 16 - 27, 2020, will be non-student contact days during which students will not be attending school. **This period of time will allow a statewide, DEED-supported planning and preparatory period during which districts will dedicate the time to fully organizing education plans for remote-delivered education, should the need arise.**



# Family Resources



## COVID-19 Family Resources

- [Social Distancing and Isolation: What to Expect and How to Cope](#): Helpful information for families from the American Psychological Association.
- [Parenting During COVID-19](#): A bulleted list to stick on the fridge, from Psychology Today.
- [How should parents prepare for Coronavirus, school closures, and getting anything done?](#): Key tips for families from EdNavigator.
- [Just for Kids: A Comic Exploring the New Coronavirus](#) (NPR)
- [Kids and COVID-19: What Parents Should Know](#) (Yale School of Medicine)
- [Eight Questions Parents May Have About Coronavirus](#) (March 9, New York Times)
- [Talking to Children about COVID-19](#) (National Association of School Psychologists)
- [Helping Children Cope With Emergencies](#) (cdc.gov)
- [Calming Anxiety](#): Helpful expert tips and resources for calming anxiety (Anxiety and Depression Assoc. Of America)

## Families Learning at Home

- [Wonderopolis](#): Each day, Wonderopolis poses an intriguing question—the Wonder of the Day®—and allows students to explore it in a variety of ways.
- [Educational Resources for Parents](#): A vetted list of educational tools that you can use with your children at home (STAND for Children)
- [Families Learning Together](#): Provides a month's worth of Family Learning activities





# Remote Learning Resources

Distance and remote teaching and learning resources are abundant in the digital age. In addition to tech-based ideas, you'll find low-tech / no-tech approaches in our resource round-up, as well. Visit this page frequently, as new materials will be added on a regular basis.

Do you have an idea or resource to share with your colleagues? Share it with us via [this form](#), and we will add it to the site and our #DistanceLearningAK map (and you will receive full credit, of course!).



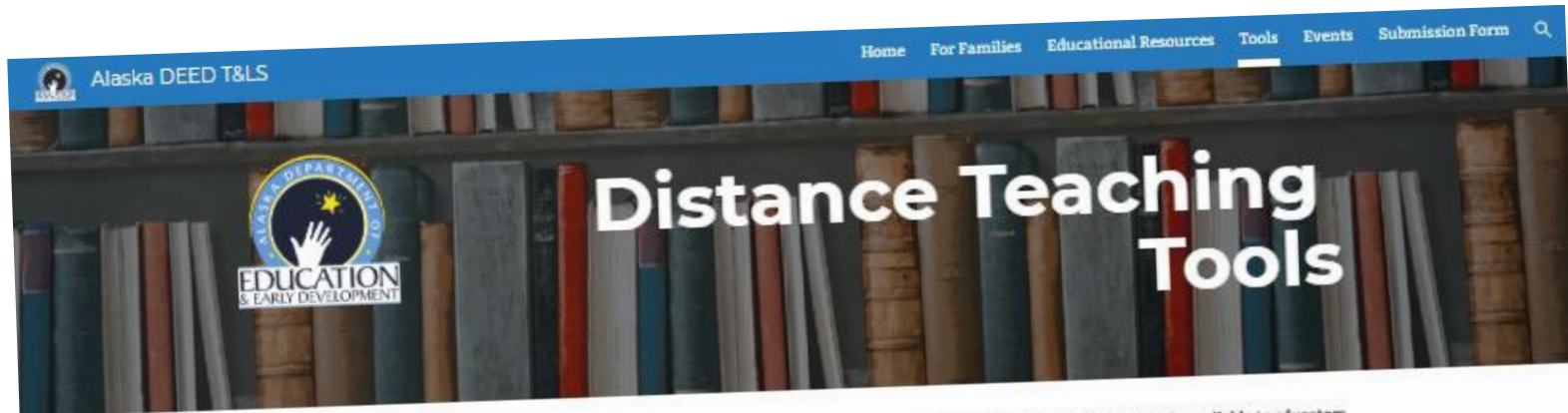
## Grades K-3 Featured Resources:

- **PBS Molly of Denali**: PBS Kids: Explore with Molly.
- **Baby Raven Reads**: Baby Raven Reads improves early literacy skills by translating cultural strengths into home literacy practices. (Sealaska Heritage Institute)
- **Storyline Online**: Award-winning children's literacy website that streams videos featuring actors reading children's books alongside creatively produced illustrations.
- **BrainPop Jr.**: Lots of fun, educational games and activities for young learners. Alaska's teachers have full access.

## Grades 4-8 Featured Resources:

- **Discovery Education**: If your school is not a DE subscriber, the company is offering FREE access through the end of the school year!
- **"Going Old School" Offline Activities**: Google Slide Deck created by Karyn Fillhart





As a result of COVID-19 and the necessity for **home-based learning** around the world, many ed tech companies are making their **tools** available to educators **at no cost**. Those referenced below are just a handful of the hundreds (thousands?) of products and platforms out there. Inclusion on this list does not mean the products are endorsed by DEED, but it does mean we (DEED staff and colleagues) have used them and found them to be useful in Alaskan classrooms, schools, and districts.

Is there a tool that's not on the list below that your colleagues in Alaska should know about? Share it with us via [this form](#), and we will add it to the site and our #DistanceLearningAK map (and you will receive full credit, of course!).



**Discovery Education: Student Engagement Video Tool**



**Flipgrid: Student Engagement Video Tool**



**Google Classroom: Online Classroom Platform**



# Alaska Education Network





# Student Nutrition

- 32 districts have submitted waiver requests
- 23 districts have approved feeding plans for their communities
- 213 sites
- 1 Head Start
- 5 after-school programs have submitted waiver requests



Photos Courtesy of @ASD\_Info

# Supporting Students with Special Needs

- #1 Priority: Keep students safe and then provide the services identified in the IEP, making accommodations as necessary.
- District special education leadership has been provided a DEED mobile contact number for 24/7 support
- Daily webinars with DEED





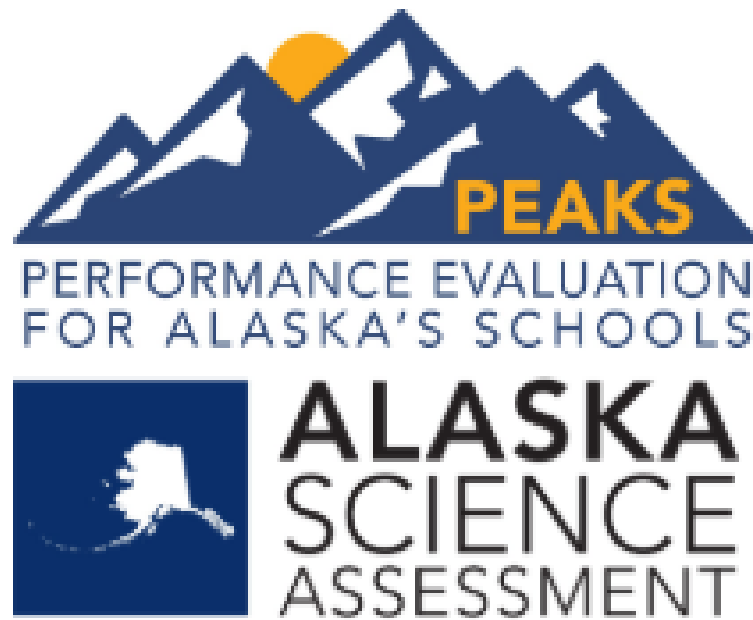
# Residential School Programs



- Residential schools are committed to maintaining a connection with students and continuing education as students return home.

<https://education.alaska.gov/news/pdf/3-16-2020-DEED-COVID-19-Memo-to-Residential-School-Programs.pdf>





# Statewide Assessments

# High School Seniors

## Graduation Requirements

- Educators across Alaska are currently preparing for possible distance delivery of instruction
- DEED expects the education of our students to continue

## APS Eligibility



# Supporting Educators

## Teacher Certification

### Current Online Support:

- Educators applying for certification can utilize DEED's Online Payment Center
- Educators renewing certification can utilize DEED's Online Certificate Renewal process

### Looking Ahead:

- Certification expirations
- Emergency certificates



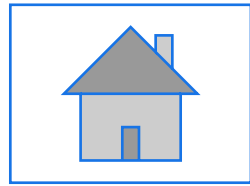
# School Calendar Waivers

- The Commissioner has the authority in Statute to waive the school term requirement if necessary (AS 14.03.030)
- At this time, non-student contact days are to be used as in-service days for educators









# InDEED: Connect With Us

- COVID-19:

<https://education.alaska.gov/safeschools/infectiousdisease>

- Teaching & Learning Support:

<https://www.aklearns.org>

Main Line: (907) 465-2800

- @AlaskaDEED on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Flickr, and Vimeo