

Senate Bill 111

Alaska Reads Act

Presentation to House Education on April 20, 2022

Recent K-3 Reading Survey Finding

“Clearly this report shows that there is an inconsistent approach to reading instruction across our state with inadequate measures for quality control. Alaska’s students need focused, comprehensive reading legislation grounded in science-based reading instruction and intervention for pre-k through third grade students”

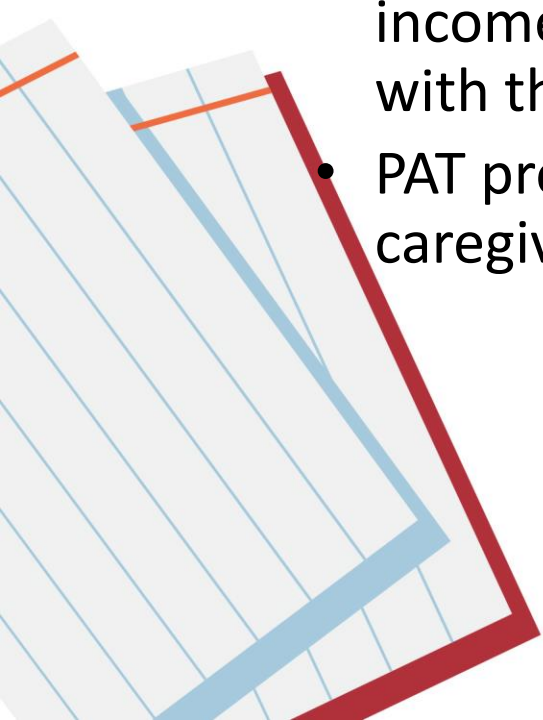
– Department of Education and Early Development

SB 111 is that legislation.



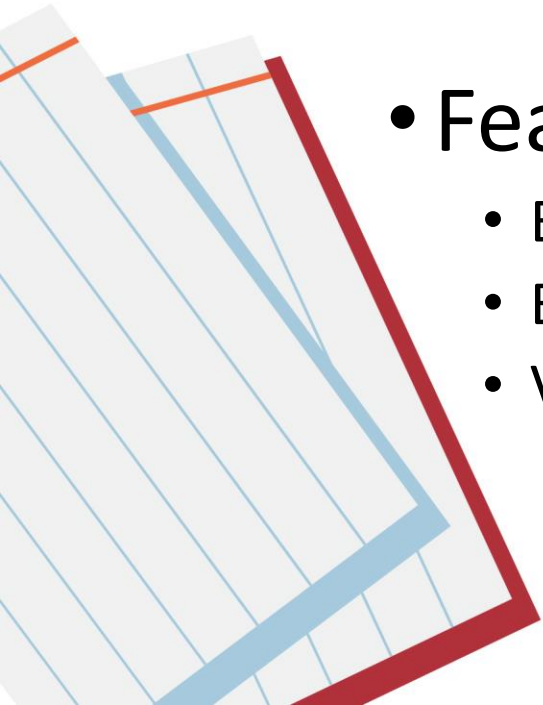
Local Successes & Lessons Learned

- Pre-Elementary Grants
- State Support for Head Start & Parent as Teachers
 - Head Start promotes school readiness for children ages 0 to 5 for low-income families and receive 80% of their funding from federal resources with the state of Alaska providing fund.
 - PAT provides competitive grants for personal and group visits to support for caregivers of children ages 0 to 5.



Senate Bill 111 (Committee Bill)

- Product of significant and spirited debate
- Developed from previous legislation
 - Includes key components of Senate Bill 42 and Senate Bill 8
 - Which were built from the legislation going back to at least 2014
- Features three main components
 - Early education
 - Evidence-based reading instruction
 - Virtual consortium



Senate Bill 111 (Senate Finance)

- Significant Stakeholder Feedback
- Amendments Adopted
 - Culturally responsive screeners in any language
 - Stronger existing early learning coordination
 - Required training and knowledge for reading specialists
- Student Centered
 - Inclusive definition of parent & guardian
 - Broad stakeholder group engagement including review of regulation
 - Informed by stipulations outlined in Moore settlement



Early Education

- Ensuring Students are Prepared to Learn
 - Rewards districts for having high-quality Pre-K by allowing qualifying programs to count students at $\frac{1}{2}$ an ADM
 - Establishes a grant program for districts to develop a high-quality pre-K program and requires coordination with existing early education programs
 - Recodifies the Parents-as-Teachers program



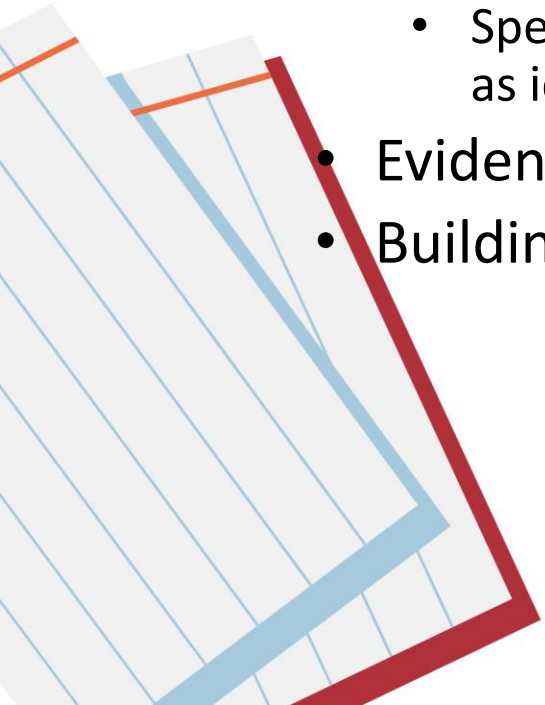
Reading Intervention Services

- **Culturally responsive reading screeners**
 - Up to three formative, in-classroom screenings per year for all K-3 students
 - DEED support to design and develop evidence-based screener in any language
 - Districts able to select their own evidence-based screener
- **Helping students in need**
 - Culturally responsive reading interventions
 - Individual reading improvement plans based on student needs
 - Delaying progression as an intervention of last resort
 - Parents always have the final decision



Intensive Reading Intervention Program

- **Providing direct assistance and training for teachers**
 - DEED funded positions building expertise within schools
 - Fiscal note calls for five positions to start
 - Assigned among the lowest performing schools
 - Specialist must have experience with indigenous communities and additional training as identified by indigenous stakeholders
 - Evidence-based professional development for teachers
 - Building local capacity and culture of reading in community



Virtual Consortium

- **Leveraging Technology Gains**
 - Maintains a statewide learning management system
 - Clearing house for professional development courses
 - Live assistance and training for teachers
 - Synchronous, asynchronous, and blended course offerings across districts
- Builds off investments, training, and success gained through the recent experience with virtual instruction



Parents and Districts in Control

- Parental engagement and choice
 - Required notification when a deficiency is identified
 - Up to 10 updates per year
 - Encouragement for parent-student reading plans
 - Required parent-teacher conference in the spring if the student is still behind
 - ***Parents/guardians always have the final say on progression decisions***
- Local Control
 - Programs and policies are locally designed and culturally responsive
 - The Department provides oversight and support

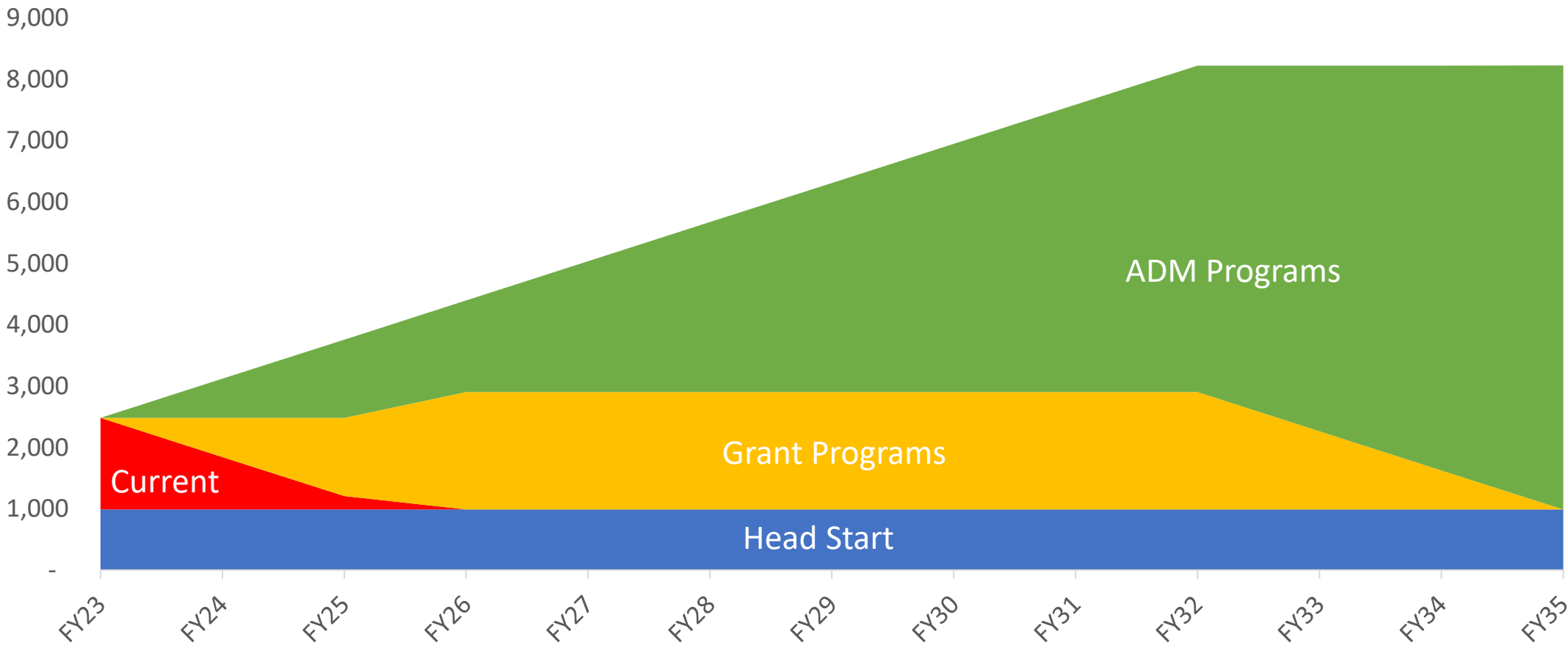


Required Review of Programs

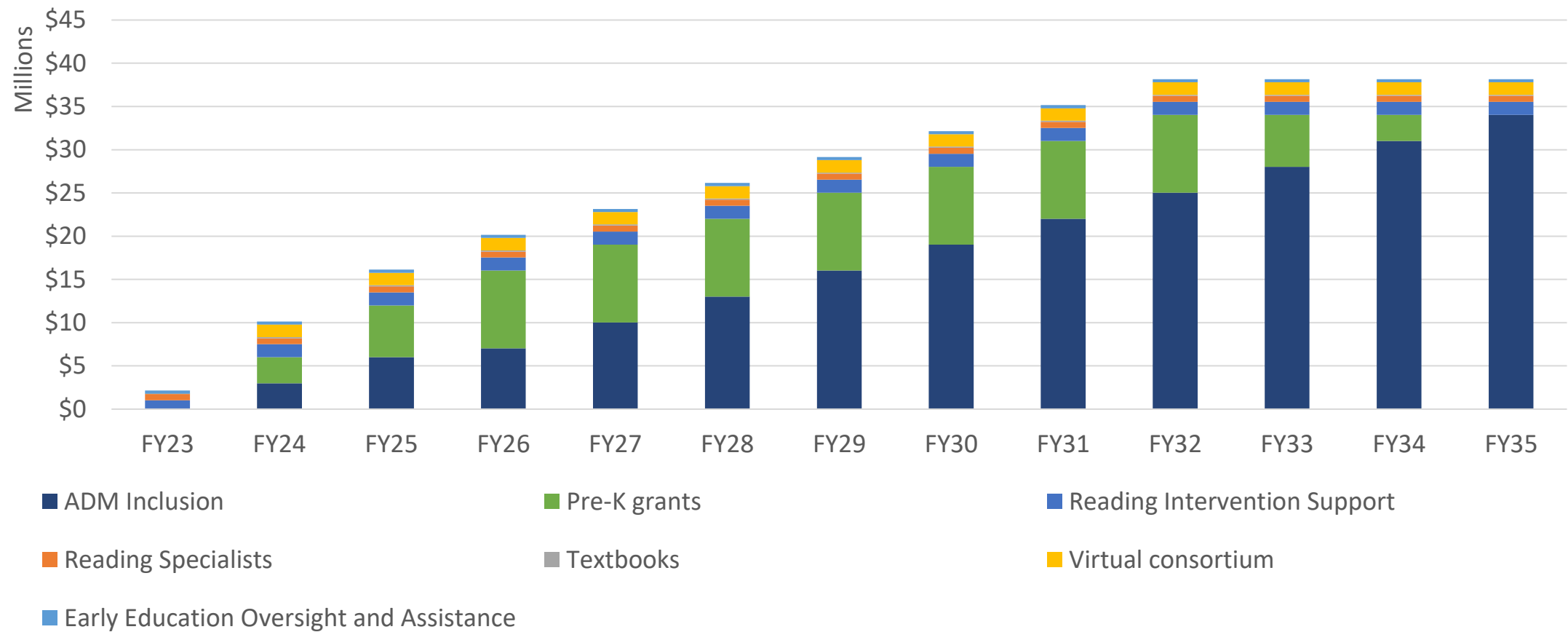
- All new programs sunset in 2034 unless extended
 - Early education programs, reading intervention services, reading specialists, and virtual consortium
- Required annual reports to the legislature
 - Including insight and feedback from stakeholder group
- Required final report and recommendation to 38th legislature



4-Year-Old Students Served



New Education Funding in SB 111



Questions?

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