

House Finance Subcommittee Federal Funding Impact & H-1B & J-1 Visa Impact

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

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Deena Bishop, Ed.D., Commissioner

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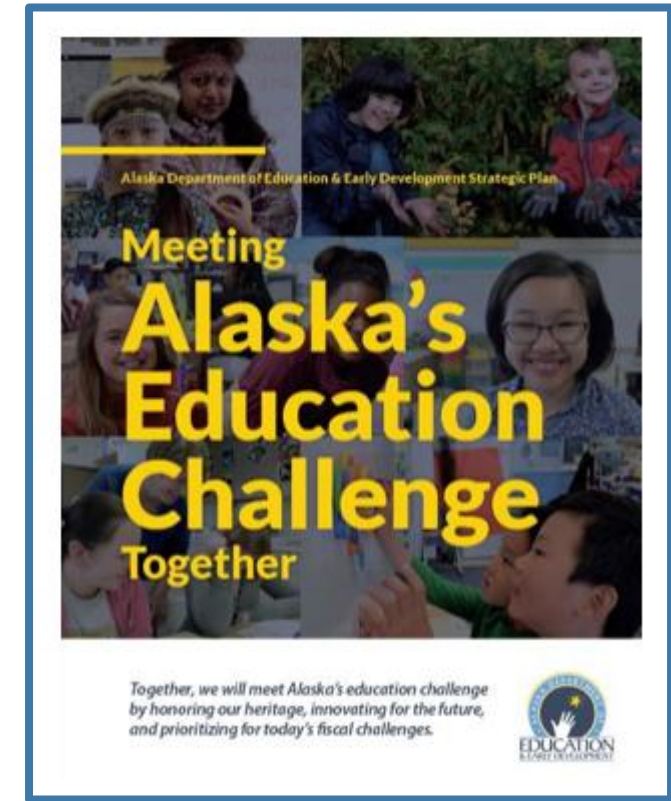
Mission, Vision, and Purpose

Mission	Vision	Purpose
<p>An excellent education for every student every day.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>- Alaska Statute 14.03.015</p>	<p>DEED exists to provide information, resources, and leadership to support an excellent education for every student every day.</p>

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

Agenda

- Federal Impacts to School Funding
- Impacts to Alaska of Changes to Federal H-1B Visas

ESEA Federal Programs

- Title I, Part A Improving Basic Programs
- Title I, Part C Education of Migratory Children and Youth
- Title I, Part D Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth who are Neglected and Delinquent, or At-Risk
- Title II, Part A Supporting Effective Instruction
- Title III, Part A English Language Acquisition and Language Enhancement
- Title IV, Part A Student Support and Academic Enrichment
- Title IV, Part B 21st Century Community Learning Centers
- Title VII-B, McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

ESEA Federal Programs – Alaska Allocations

ESEA Program	FY2023 Allocation	FY2024 Allocation	FY2025 Allocations	FY26 Allocations
Title I-A	\$50,604,095	\$53,818,062	\$53,330,548	\$52,426,192
Title I-C	\$21,588,829	\$20,007,052	\$21,335,300	\$20,777,803
Title I-D	\$413,319	\$428,783	\$478,547	\$435,747
Title II-A	\$10,671,833	\$10,786,692	\$10,835,611	\$10,837,184
Title III-A	\$1,349,243	\$1,219,172	\$1,106,044	\$1,120,646
Title IV-A	\$6,176,960	\$6,659,535	\$6,659,535	\$6,693,000
Title IV-B	\$6,319,398	\$6,515,398	\$6,515,398	\$6,548,640
Title VII-B	\$323,811	\$372,689	\$368,645	\$363,091

<https://www.ed.gov/about/ed-overview/annual-performance-reports/budget/budget-tables/departments-of-education-budget-tables>

Preliminary state-level allocations for state FY2027 have not yet been released.

* Allocations presented represent whole dollars

Current Status of ESEA Federal Funding

- Congress recently passed a federal fiscal year (FFY) 2026 appropriations package. This is funding districts will receive July 1, 2026. Most major programs authorized under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act receive the same level of funding as FFY 2025 amounts, except for a \$20 million increase nationally for ESEA Title I-A
- Preliminary state-level allocations for FFY 2026 have not yet been released

Work Visa Options and Considerations

Two International visa options currently employed by most districts

- The H-1B visa is a program to hire nonimmigrant workers in a specialty occupation.
“The intent of the H-1B provisions is to help employers who cannot otherwise obtain needed business skills and abilities from the U.S. workforce by authorizing the temporary employment of qualified individuals who are not otherwise authorized to work in the United States” (U.S. Department of Labor, <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/immigration/h1b>)
- Three-to-five-year visa
- Lottery based program, districts must compete against all potential H-1B eligible industries for candidates
- Newly instituted \$100,000 fee required with applications submitted after September 1, 2025. Does not apply to existing visa holders
- The J-1 visa is an exchange visa for nonimmigrants who intend to participate in a pre-approved program. Teaching is a category that can be approved for exchange visas.
“These programs are designed to promote the interchange of persons, knowledge, and skills, in the fields of education, arts, and science” (U.S. Customs and Immigration Services, <https://www.uscis.gov/working-in-the-united-states/students-and-exchange-visitors/exchange-visitors>)
- Three-to-five-year visa
- Candidates must take a minimum of two-year break to return to their home country before applying for another exchange visa

Educators Serving on Work Visas

Alaska's schools continue to benefit from the contributions of internationally recruited educators who help districts fill positions that would otherwise remain vacant.



Source: District Fall Staff Accounting Report

Current Support for International Hiring

- Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) Commissioner, Dr. Deena Bishop, submitted a letter to the United States Secretary of State on November 17, 2025, requesting a waiver of the \$100,000 supplemental fee requirement for educator H-1B candidates
- DEED has employed resources available from the Northwest Comprehensive Center grant and Education Northwest to create guidance, one-pagers for districts on how to utilize J-1 and H-1B visa educators to support current workforce needs

Current Support for International Hiring

- DEED continues to collaborate with the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to identify and reduce barriers to international educator hiring and to leverage available federal workforce resources
- DEED continues to monitor federal visa and immigration policy developments through regular legal and policy briefings from Bruman Group, a national education law and policy consulting firm, in addition to coordination with our federal delegation and partner agencies

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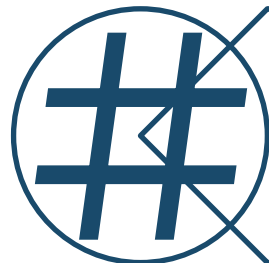
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