

Joint Education Task Force Committee

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Dr. Monica Goyette, Director

Deborah Riddle, Division Operations Manager

February 23, 2026



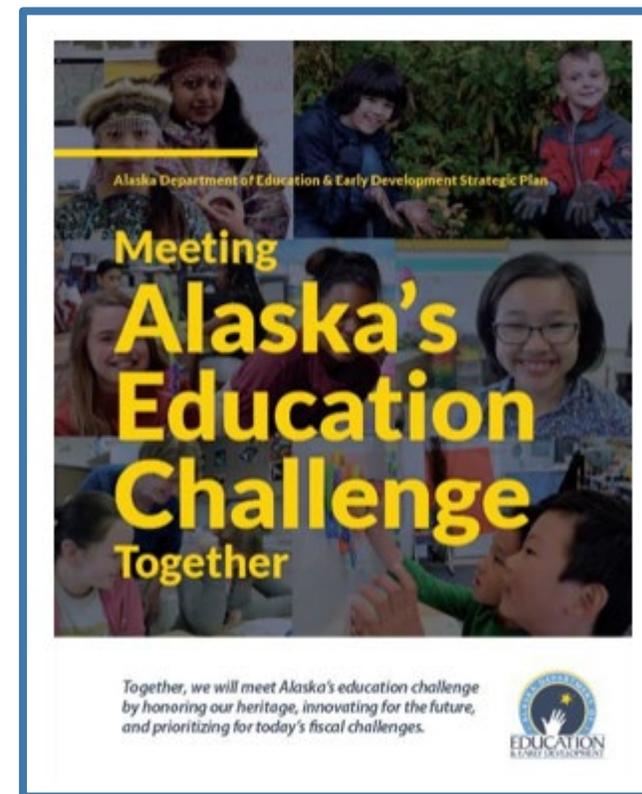
Mission, Vision, and Purpose

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

Acronyms

(DEED) – Department of Education and Early Development

(LEA) – Local Education Agency

(IDEA) - Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Agenda

- Special Education Child Count
- Special Education Services
- Special Education Funding Mechanisms
- Special Education Funding

Special Education Child Count

School Year	Total Special Education Child Count
2014-2015	18,023
2018-2019	19,479
2024-2025	20,578

Child Count Age between 3-21 statewide on or around 10/01 of every year. Data retrieved on 02/03/2026.

Special Education Services

- Family and Advocacy Supports
- District Technical Assistance and Specialized Supports
- Monitoring and Compliance
- Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Reporting and Accountability
- Dispute Resolution and Early Intervention
- Professional Development
- Fiscal and Grant Administration

Special Education Funding Mechanisms

- Federal Funding: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)
 - Section 611 – School-Age (Ages 3–21)
 - Section 619 – Preschool (Ages 3–5)
- State Funding: Foundation Formula
 - Special Needs Factor
 - Intensive Factor

Special Education Funding

FY2026 (in thousands)	Administration	Grants to LEAs	Discretionary	Total
Federal Funding				\$ 51,218.2
IDEA, Part B (611)	\$ 2,261.5	\$ 42,967.6	\$ 4,595.1	\$ 49,824.1
IDEA, Part B (619)	\$ 71.1	\$ 1,039.0	\$ 284.0	\$ 1,394.1
State Funding				\$ 510,973.8
Preliminary Foundation-Special Needs Factor (Basic Need)	n/a	\$ 203,874.5	n/a	\$ 203,874.5
Preliminary Foundation Intensive (Basic Need)	n/a	\$ 307,099.3	n/a	\$ 307,099.3
Total	\$ 2,332.6	\$ 554,980.4	\$ 4,879.1	\$ 562,192.0

Special Needs Factor includes gifted and talented, bi-lingual, multi-lingual, special education, and vocational education

Acronyms: (LEA) Local Education Agency | (IDEA) Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Contact Information

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Stay Connected



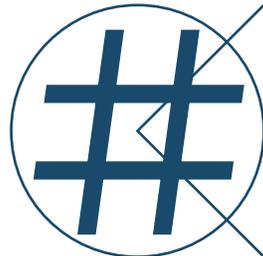
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Social Media

- @AlaskaDEED