

Alaska Reads Act Early Learning Programs

House Finance Subcommittee

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Dr. Monica Goyette, Director

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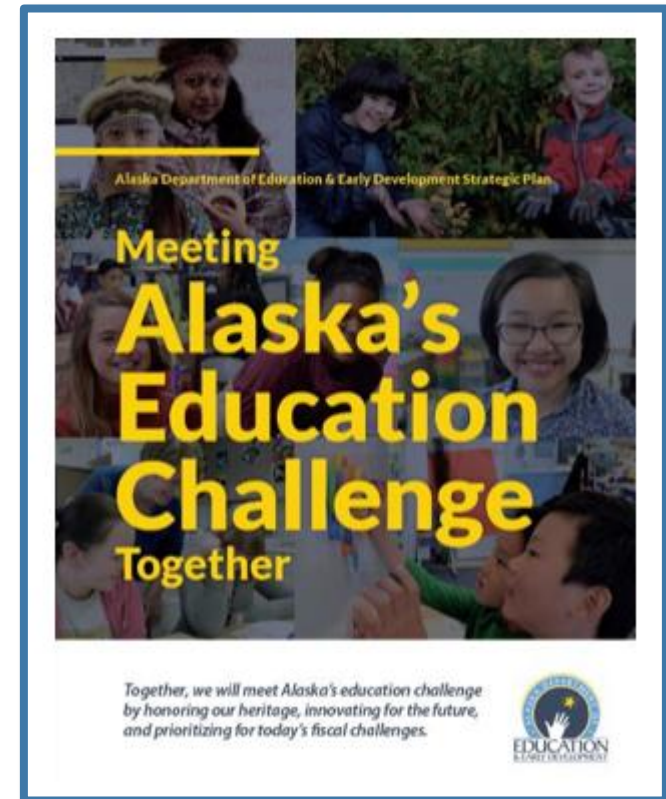
Mission, Vision, and Purpose

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

- **(ADM)** – Average Daily Membership
- **(AS)** – Alaska Statute
- **(DEED)** – Department of Education and Early Development
- **(EEP)** - Early Education Program Grants
- **(PEG)** - Pre-Elementary Grants
- **(SD)** – School District

Agenda

- Alaska Reads Act Early Learning Components
- Early Education Program Standards
- Early Education Program Grants (EEP)
- 0.5 Average Daily Membership (ADM) Formula Funding for Early Education
- Pre-Elementary Grants (PEG)
- Early Learning Programs Participation
- Statewide Pre-Elementary Assessment – Teaching Strategies GOLD
- Alaska Read’s Act Literacy Screener

Alaska Reads Act

Early Learning Components

- Early Education Program Standards: Framework for high-quality district preschool programs aligned to school readiness and literacy development
- Early Education Program Grant (EEP): Competitive grants to develop or strengthen district early education programs, prioritizing highest-need communities
- Foundation Formula Funding – 0.5 ADM: Approved programs may count eligible four- and five-year-old students at one-half Average Daily Membership (ADM) in the state funding formula

Early Education Program Standards

- **Purpose:** Establish consistent statewide expectations for high-quality early education programs serving four- and five-year-old children
- **Required Standards:**
 - Evidence-based curriculum aligned to early literacy and developmental domains
 - Certified teacher oversight and qualified staff
 - Alignment with the Alaska Early Learning Guidelines
 - State-supported developmental screening and formative assessment
 - Family engagement and culturally responsive practices
 - Safe, developmentally appropriate learning environments
- **Outcome:** Supports kindergarten readiness and alignment with K–3 literacy goals

Early Education Program Grants (EEP)

Purpose:

- Support districts in the development and continuous improvement of high-quality, district-wide early education programs for four- and five-year-old children consistent with the Alaska Reads Act
- Strengthen the transition to kindergarten through coordinated partnerships between families and schools
- Provide an avenue for districts with high quality early education programs to be eligible for 0.5 Average Daily Membership (ADM) formula funding

Impact:

- Offer three-year grants to school districts to support early education programs
- Districts work toward full implementation of the Alaska Early Education Program Standards
- Increase the number of students qualifying for 0.5 ADM formula funding

Early Education Program Grants (EEP)

School District	*Number of Students	*Number of Sites	FY2024 Allocation	FY2025 Allocation	FY2026 Allocation
Alaska Gateway School District	11	2	N/A	\$200,916	\$150,000
Denali Borough School District	10	3	\$ 623,386	\$398,403	\$500,236
Galena City School District	8	1	\$ 348,365	\$313,864	\$313,864
Hydaburg City School District	4	1	\$ 186,663	\$152,164	\$152,163
Iditarod Area School District	9	6	\$ 568,857	\$499,986	\$499,986
Kake City School District	10	1	\$ 498,503	\$403,550	\$403,550
Kuspuk School District	16	2	\$ 495,326	\$312,082	\$312,082
Lower Kuskokwim School District	17	1	\$ 278,800	\$171,048	\$171,048
Northwest Arctic Borough School District	111	11	N/A	\$547,887	\$496,971
Total	196	28	\$2,999,900	\$2,999,900	\$2,999,900

*Enrollment and site data is based on data provided by each district in DEED's Grants Management System (GMS) in the first quarter of FY2026

0.5 Average Daily Membership (ADM) Formula Funding for Early Education

Purpose: Establish a pathway for approved early education programs to generate 0.5 ADM funding through the public-school foundation formula

Eligibility Requirements: Demonstrated implementation of the Alaska Early Education Program Standards and employment of teacher(s) holding the required certifications, including the Alaska Reads Act Early Education Lead Endorsement

Funding Structure:

- Eligible four- and five-year-old students generate 0.5 Average Daily Membership within the foundation formula
- Early education ADM is subject to a statutory statewide growth limitation under AS 14.17.500(f)
 - The statute directs that when funding is insufficient, distribution must be prioritized using each district's state accountability index score

0.5 ADM Formula Funding for Early Education

School District	FY2024 Entitlement	FY2025 Entitlement	FY2026 Entitlement	FY2026 0.5 ADM (Enrollment)	FY2026 Adjustments
Anchorage School District (SD)	\$1,693,599	\$1,945,128	\$2,141,060	267.27 (544)	
Annette Island SD			\$37,920	5.50 (11)	
Bering Strait SD			\$907,602	42.01 (85)	
Chatham SD			\$3,604	1.30 (4)	
Fairbanks North Star Borough SD			\$7,811	3.68 (9)	
Kenai Peninsula Borough SD			\$165,031	16.50 (33)	
Ketchikan Gateway Borough SD			\$210,161	21.31 (44)	
Matanuska Susitna Borough SD			\$930,655	147.62(298)	*Reduced by \$323,765
North Slope Borough SD			\$629,280	38.11(78)	
Petersburg City SD			\$0	0.50 (1)	*Reduced by \$5,408
Skagway School District		\$15,238	\$0	4.10 (9)	*Reduced by \$14,553
Southeast Island Borough SD			\$20,228	4.98 (11)	
Valdez City School District		\$90,417	\$0	21.00 (42)	*Reduced by \$51,473
Totals:	\$1,693,599	\$2,050,783	\$5,053,352	573.88 (1,169)	

* Under AS 14.17.500(f), early education 0.5 ADM funding is subject to a statewide statutory cap. When the total amount generated by approved districts exceeds that cap and the available appropriation, the department is required to distribute funds using the statutory prioritization method.

Pre-Elementary Grants (PEG)

Purpose:

- Support districts in the development and continuous improvement of high-quality, district-wide early education programs for three- through five-year-old children
- Strengthen the transition to kindergarten through coordinated partnerships between families and schools; programs may be classroom-based or home-based
- Provide an additional avenue for districts with high quality early education programs to receive 0.5 ADM formula funding for their four- and five-year students

Impact:

- Offer three-year grants to school districts to support early education programs
- Districts work toward full implementation of the Alaska Early Education Program Standards
- Increase the number of students qualifying for 0.5 ADM formula funding
- Increase enrollment in pre-elementary programs through the inclusion of correspondence students

Pre-Elementary Grants (PEG)

School District	FY2026 Number of Students*	FY2026 Number of Sites	FY2024 Allocations	FY2025 Allocations	FY2026 Allocations
Aleutians East Borough School District	12	2	\$302,648	\$247,920	\$247,920
Bristol Bay Borough School District	14	1	\$460,725	\$227,008	\$227,008
Chugach School District	59**	4	\$188,000	\$262,624	\$262,624
Juneau Borough School District	75	4	\$730,294	\$495,840	\$495,840
Kodiak Island Borough School District	63	1	\$761,729	\$577,018	\$577,018
Lake & Peninsula Borough School District	24	7	\$59,507	\$556,345	\$556,345
Nome Public Schools	27	1	\$148,644	\$123,345	\$123,345
Southwest Region School District	63	8	\$605,294	\$495,840	\$495,840
Yukon-Koyukuk School District	9	7	\$261,313	\$214,060	\$214,060
Total	346	35	\$3,518,154	\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000

*Enrollment numbers based on data provided by district in DEED's Grants Management System (GMS) in the first quarter of FY2026

**Includes students enrolled in FOCUS Home School

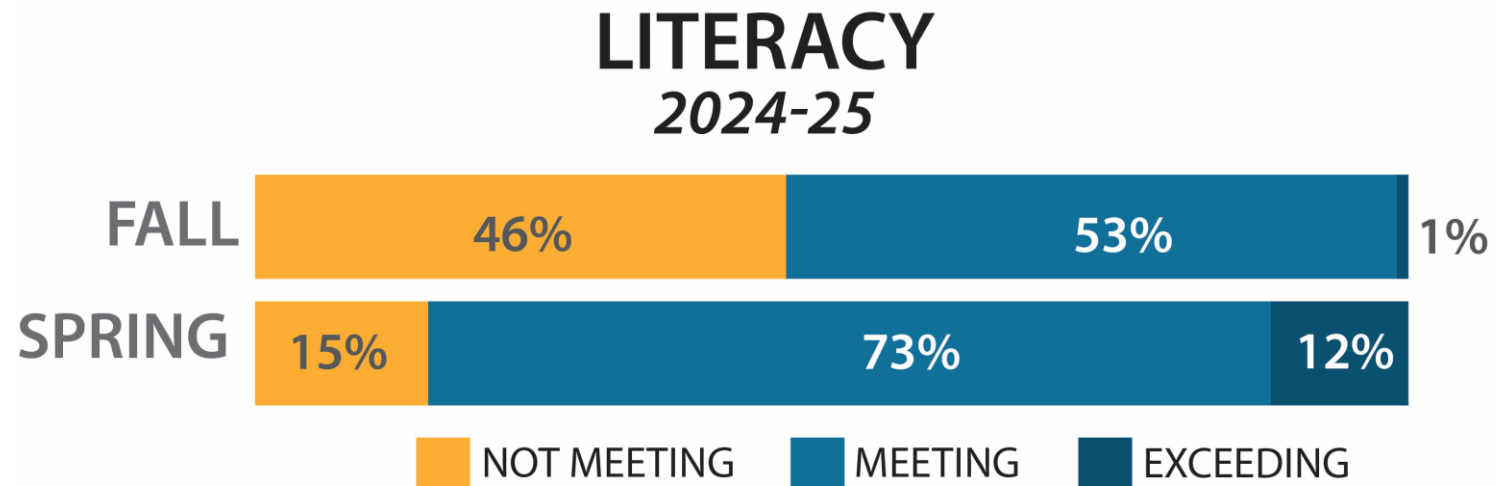
Early Learning Programs FY2026 Participation

- Thirty-one of Alaska's 53 school districts (58 percent) participate in one of the three state-supported early learning programs
 - Early Education Program (EEP): 9 districts
 - 0.5 ADM Early Education Formula Funding: 13 districts
 - Pre-Elementary Grants (PEG): 9 districts
- A total of 1,711 student statewide participate in one of the three state-supported early learning programs
 - Early Education Program (EEP): 196 students*
 - 0.5 ADM Early Education Formula Funding: 1,169 students
 - Pre-Elementary Grants (PEG): 346 students*

*Enrollment numbers based on data provided by district in DEED's Grants Management System (GMS) in the first quarter of FY2026

Statewide Pre-Elementary Assessment – Teaching Strategies GOLD

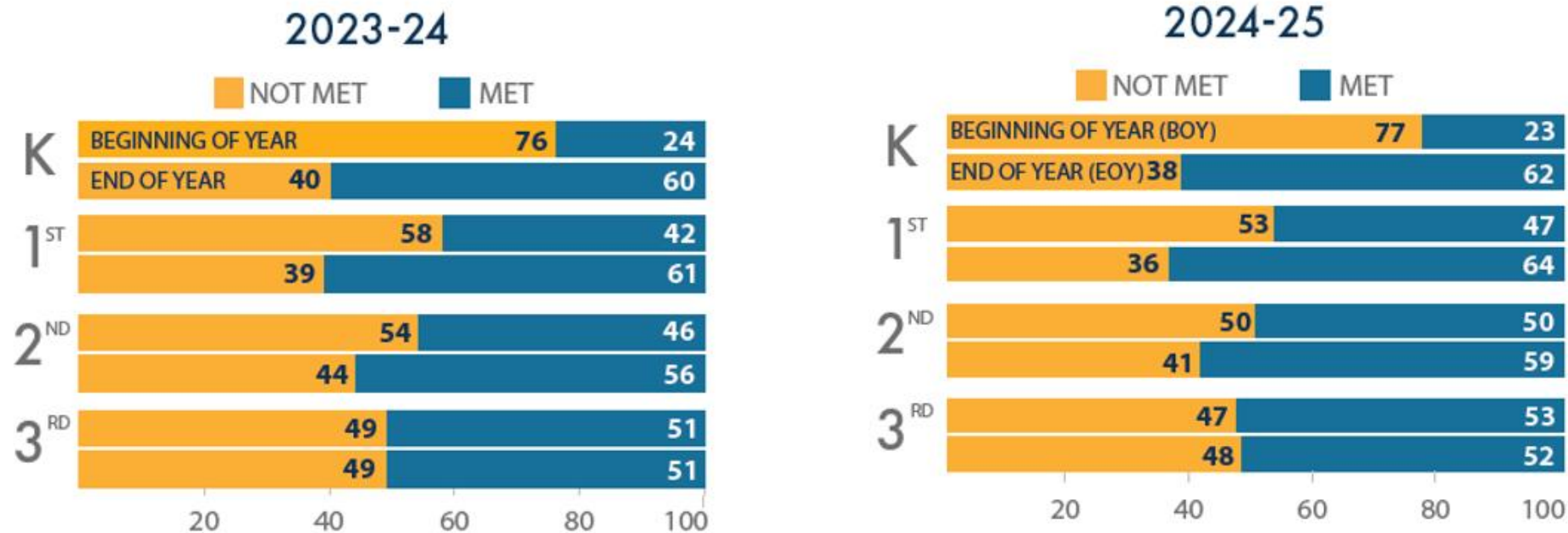
- A statewide, teacher observational assessment used by all state grantees
- Available to non-grant school districts statewide including professional development support
- Measures development across five required areas:
 - Social-Emotional, Cognitive, Language, Literacy, Mathematics



Alaska Reads Act Statewide Literacy Screener

mCLASS Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy (DIBELS) 8th Edition

Alaska Grade Level Skill Achievement



 **KG INCREASED STUDENT LEARNING FROM 24% TO 60%**

 **KG INCREASED STUDENT LEARNING FROM 23% TO 62%**

Source: Data from the mCLASS® DIBELS® 8th Edition Early Literacy Screener, Alaska and national user bases, prepared by Amplify Education, Inc., using beginning- and end-of-year results, June 2025.

Contact Information

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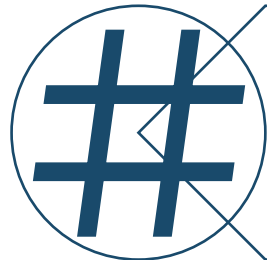
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