

Bond Reimbursement and Grant Review Committee

Bond Reimbursement and Grant Review Committee Members

Kevin Lyon, Kenai Peninsula School District

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Randy Williams, RESPEC Company LLC

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Michael Butikofer, Facilities Manager

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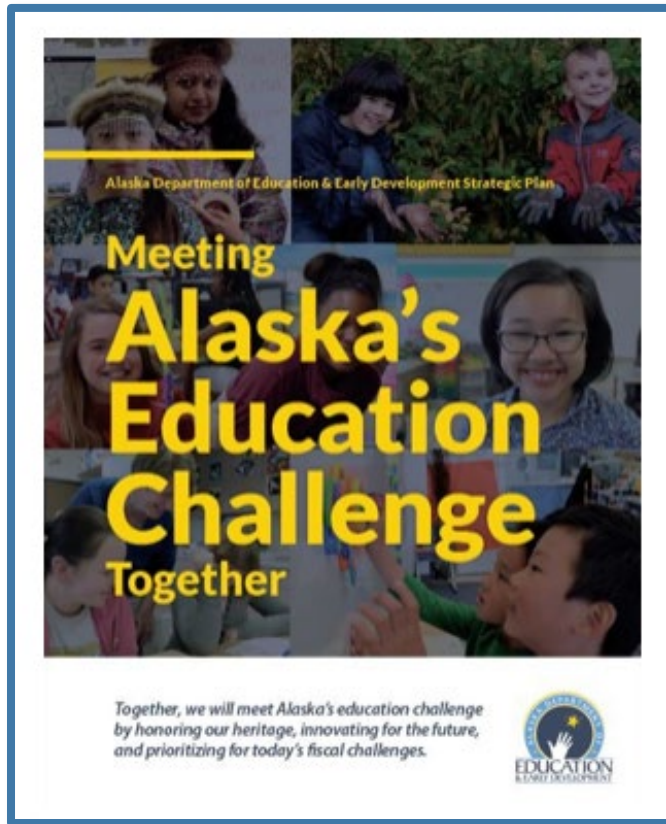
House Finance Committee 1:30 PM April 9, 2026



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>

Alaska's Education Challenge



Five Shared Strategic 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.

Acronyms

- BRGR – Bond Reimbursement and Grant Review
- CIP – Capital Improvement Project
- PM – Preventative Maintenance
- ASHRAE – American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Engineers
- FCI – Facility Condition Index
- ADM – Average Daily Membership

Overview

- Committee Creation/History
- CIP Application History
- BRGR Composition
- Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) Responsibilities
- Committee Responsibilities
- April 2-3, 2026 BRGR meeting results

Statutory & Regulatory Authority – BRGR

AS 14.11.014 Establishes the BRGR Committee

- Develop criteria for school construction and major maintenance
- Recommend grant funding priorities to the State Board of Education
- Recommend bond reimbursement projects to the Commissioner
- Ensure cost-effective and efficient school construction
- Establish application, scoring, and ranking methodologies

4 AAC 31 Implements statutory requirements

- CIP application structure and instructions
- Project eligibility and evaluation criteria
- Space and facility requirements (4 AAC 31.020)
- Attendance area considerations (4 AAC 31.016)

BRGR Evolution & Key Accomplishments

Established the core framework still used today:

- CIP application, scoring system, and ranking methodology
- Space guidelines and facility standards
- Building condition surveys and maintenance classifications

Developed foundational tools:

- Preventative maintenance guidelines
- Facility appraisal processes
- Cost modeling for Alaska school construction

Adopted key guidance documents: Preventative Maintenance (PM) handbook, site selection, condition surveys, Design and Construction Standards

Modernization & Standardization

Ongoing refinement of the CIP application through annual updates

Major improvements to scoring:

- Shift to more formula-driven and objective criteria
- Reduced subjective elements by establishing the Guidelines for Raters of the CIP Application

Expanded policy and technical guidance:

- Energy efficiency standards (ASHRAE 90.1)
- Equipment guidelines and project administration standards

Increased stakeholder engagement:

- Public comment processes
- Coordination with industry professionals

BRGR Membership Composition AS 14.11.014

Commissioner of Education & Early Development
(or Commissioner's designee)

Two Legislative Members

- One appointed by the Speaker of the House
- One appointed by the President of the Senate

Six Public Members (appointed by the Commissioner)

- Serve four-year terms
- Two with professional degrees and experience in school construction
- Two with experience in urban or rural school facilities management
- Two representing the general public

DEED Responsibilities AS 14.11.013

Implements the CIP Process

- Reviews district applications and verifies eligibility under statute
- Develops and recommends the statewide CIP priority list

Applies Rating Criteria

- Evaluates projects using established criteria (life-safety, condition, capacity, cost efficiency)
- Ensures consistency, transparency, and alignment with statutory requirements

Ensures Cost-Effective & Eligible Projects

- Modifies, phases, or removes projects as needed
- Encourages standard designs and cost-saving measures

Facilitates Public Process

- Publishes proposed rankings and conducts public hearings

Annually publish the School Capital Project Funding (SB237) Report required by AS 14.11.035

FY2028 CIP Application Proposed Changes

Measure Real Condition, Not Just Age

- Replace Weighted Average Age with Facility Condition Index (FCI)
- Focus on actual building condition and deferred maintenance
- Improves identification of true facility need

Prioritize Life-Safety & Critical Needs

- Increase points for:
 - Code deficiencies
 - Structural issues
 - Life-safety concerns
- Allows highest-risk projects to clearly rise to the top

FY2028 CIP Application Proposed Changes (*cont.*)

Right-Size Facilities & Use Data Consistently

- Require space/ADM analysis for projects with a total cost greater than 50% of facility replacement cost
- Evaluate whether facilities are:
 - Overbuilt
 - Underutilized
 - At capacity
- Supports better investment decisions with limited resources

Level the Playing Field in Project Development

- Redistributed points to give more points for concept and 35% schematic design level cost estimates while removing points from 65% and bid level cost estimates

Today and looking ahead

BRGR has evolved over 30+ years to maintain:

- Fairness
- Transparency
- Cost-effectiveness

FY2028 CIP application changes intend to:

- Better reflect aging infrastructure
- Address financial inequities between districts
- Prioritize life-safety and critical needs

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