

Regional Educational Attendance Areas

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Lori Weed, School Finance Manager

Heather Heineken, Finance & Support Services Director

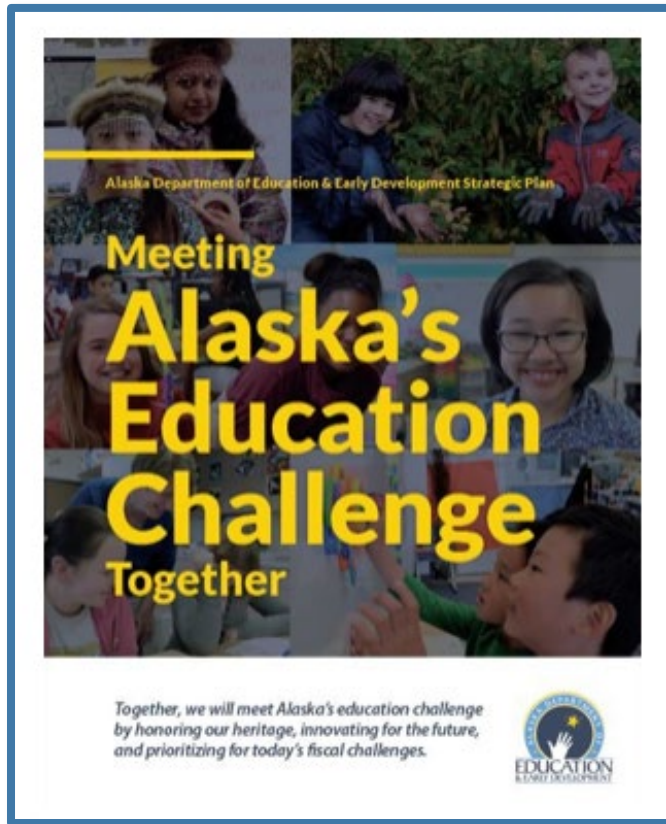
April 13, 2026



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

ACLA – Alaska Compiled Laws Annotated

ADM – Average Daily Membership

ANCSA – Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act

BIA – Bureau of Indian Affairs

DCCED – Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development

DEED – Department of Education and Early Development

REAA – Regional Educational Attendance Area

REAA Fund – Regional educational attendance area and small municipal school district school fund (AS 14.11.030)

Overview

- History of Providing Education Services in Alaska
- Establishment of REAA
- REAA School Boards
- Funding Education Services
- Facility Ownership in REAAs
- Capital Funding

A Little Territorial History

- Cities in the Territory were required to provide public school services
 - “Every city shall constitute a school district and ... the [city shall] provide the [school district] with ... the necessary funds to maintain public schools ...”
 - City School Boards had the power to tax to raise revenue for the schools (ACLA 37-3-41; 37-3-25)
 - The Territory *could* refund to the city a percentage of school costs (ACLA 37-3-61-62)
- Education services in non-organized areas were provided by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

Bureau of Indian Affairs

- After statehood Alaska and BIA coordinated on education
 - Plan for eventual integration in Alaska system, needed federal funding support
- BIA operated 150+ elementary school facilities
- Schools transferred to State and other entities (municipalities, native corporations) between 1960 and 1989
- Federal law passed requiring no BIA-funded schools after June 30, 1985

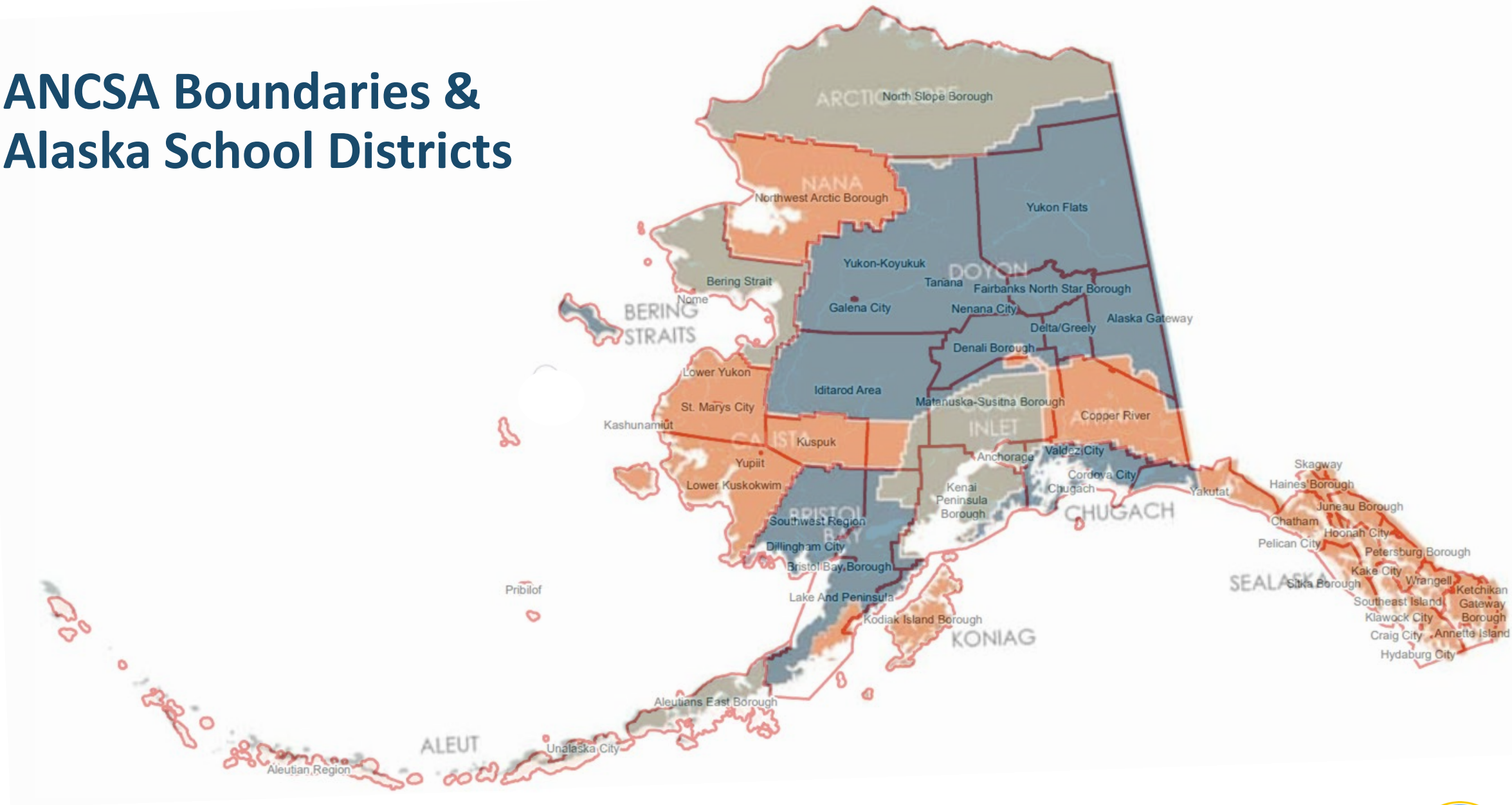
Statutory Responsibilities

- Legislature is responsible for providing public education
 - Sits as the assembly for the unorganized borough
- AS 14.12.010 establishes school districts
 - The area outside organized boroughs and outside home rule and first-class cities is divided into regional educational attendance areas.
- Legislature delegates certain responsibilities to school districts / school boards
 - AS 14.08. Education in the Unorganized Borough
 - Establish REAA boundaries, election of regional school board, powers, duties
- DEED exercises general supervision over public schools (AS 14.07.020(1))

Establishment of Regional Educational Attendance Areas

- AS 14.08.031. Regional educational attendance areas
- DCCED, DEED, and local communities divide the unorganized borough into educational service areas using boundaries of ANSCA regional corporations (unless by referendum a community votes to merge with another community contiguous to it)
 - These are the regional educational attendance areas (REAs)
- Each REAA shall contain an integrated socio-economic, linguistically and culturally homogeneous area, with consideration for transportation and communication between communities
- Federal Transfer REAs authorized by the Legislature in 1985 allowed specific independent communities to form an REAA. Akiak, Akiachak, Tuluksuk voted to form Yupiit REAA; Chevak voted to form Kashunamiut

ANCSA Boundaries & Alaska School Districts

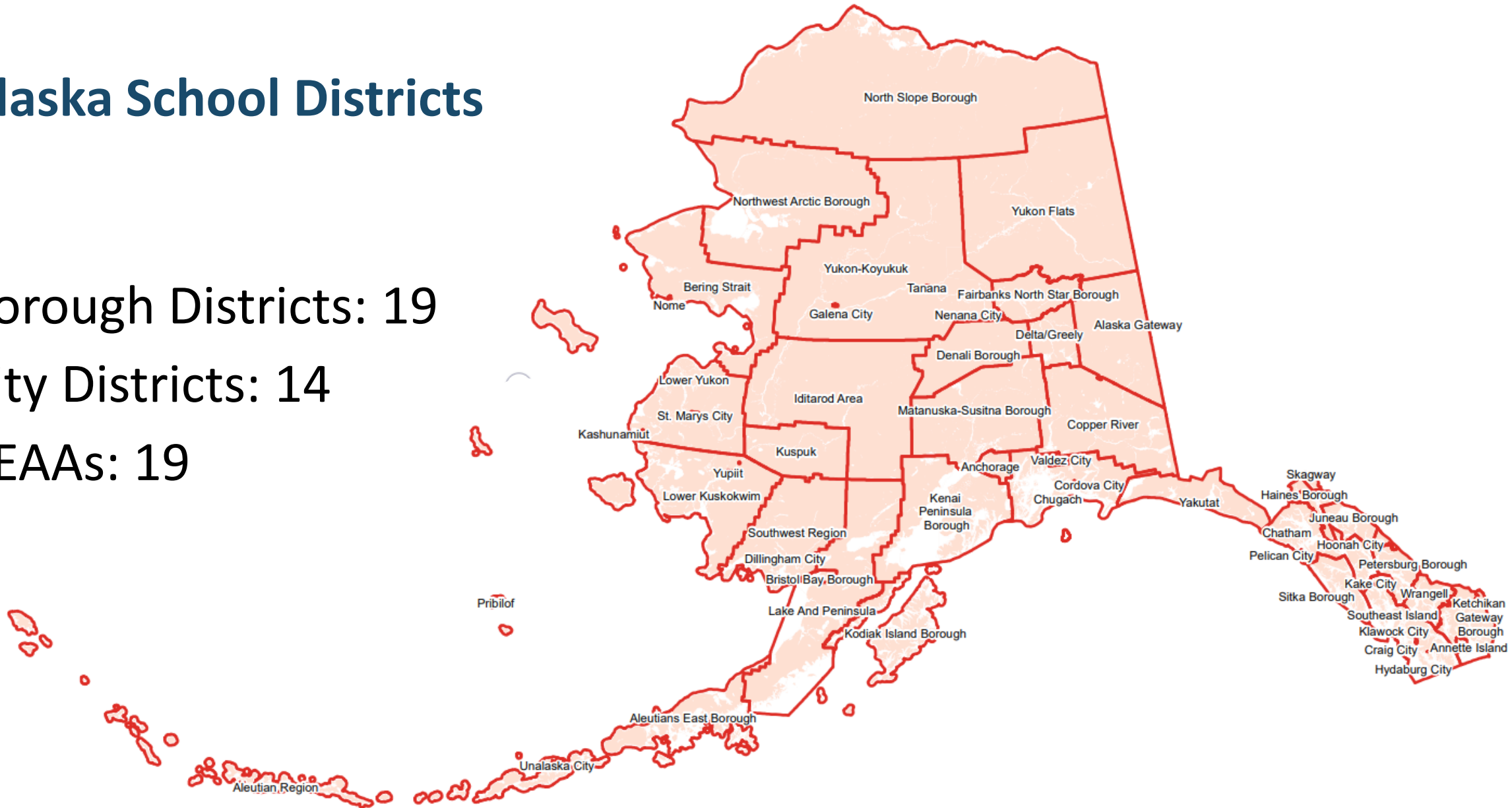


Alaska School Districts

Borough Districts: 19

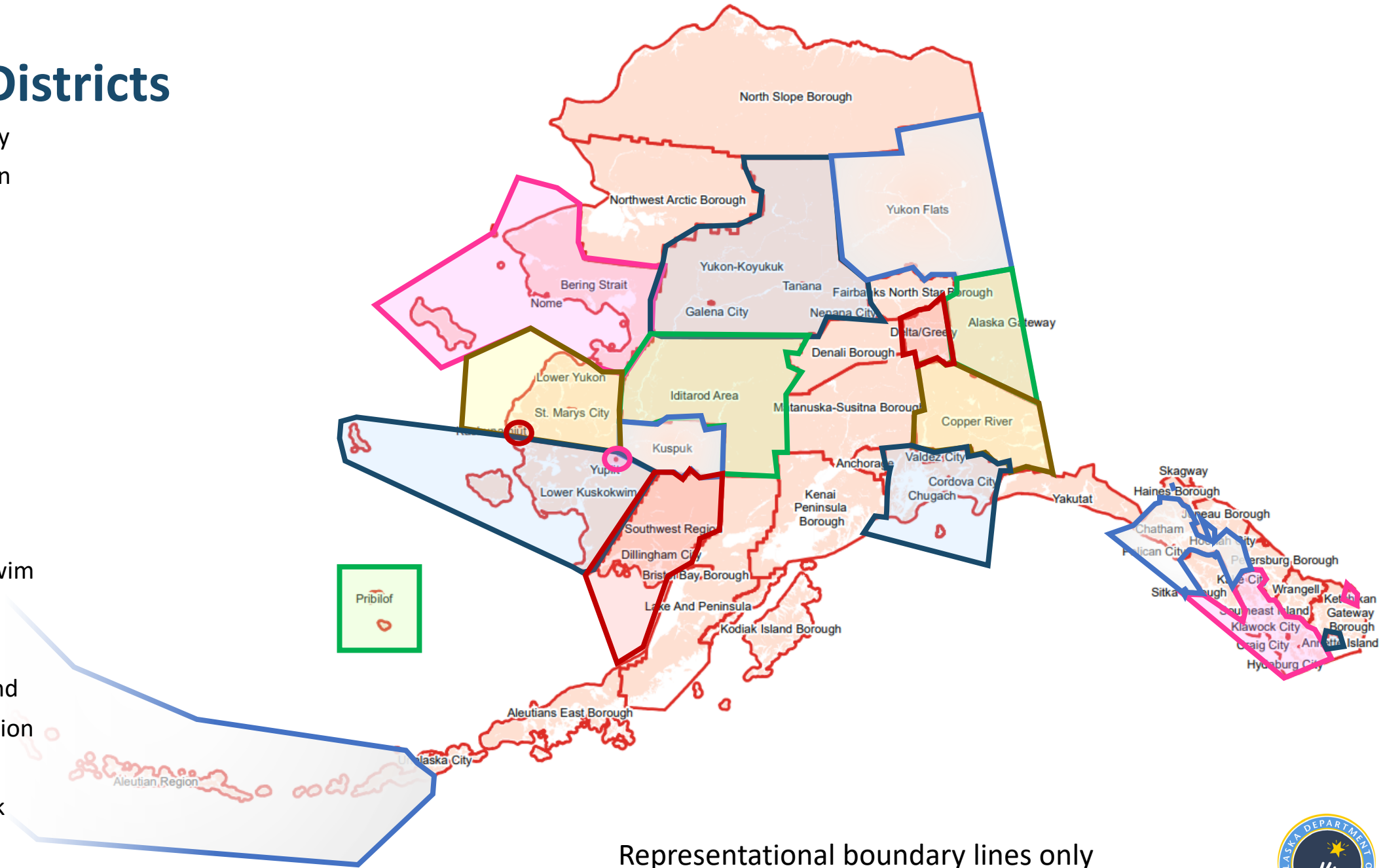
City Districts: 14

REAAAs: 19



REAA Districts

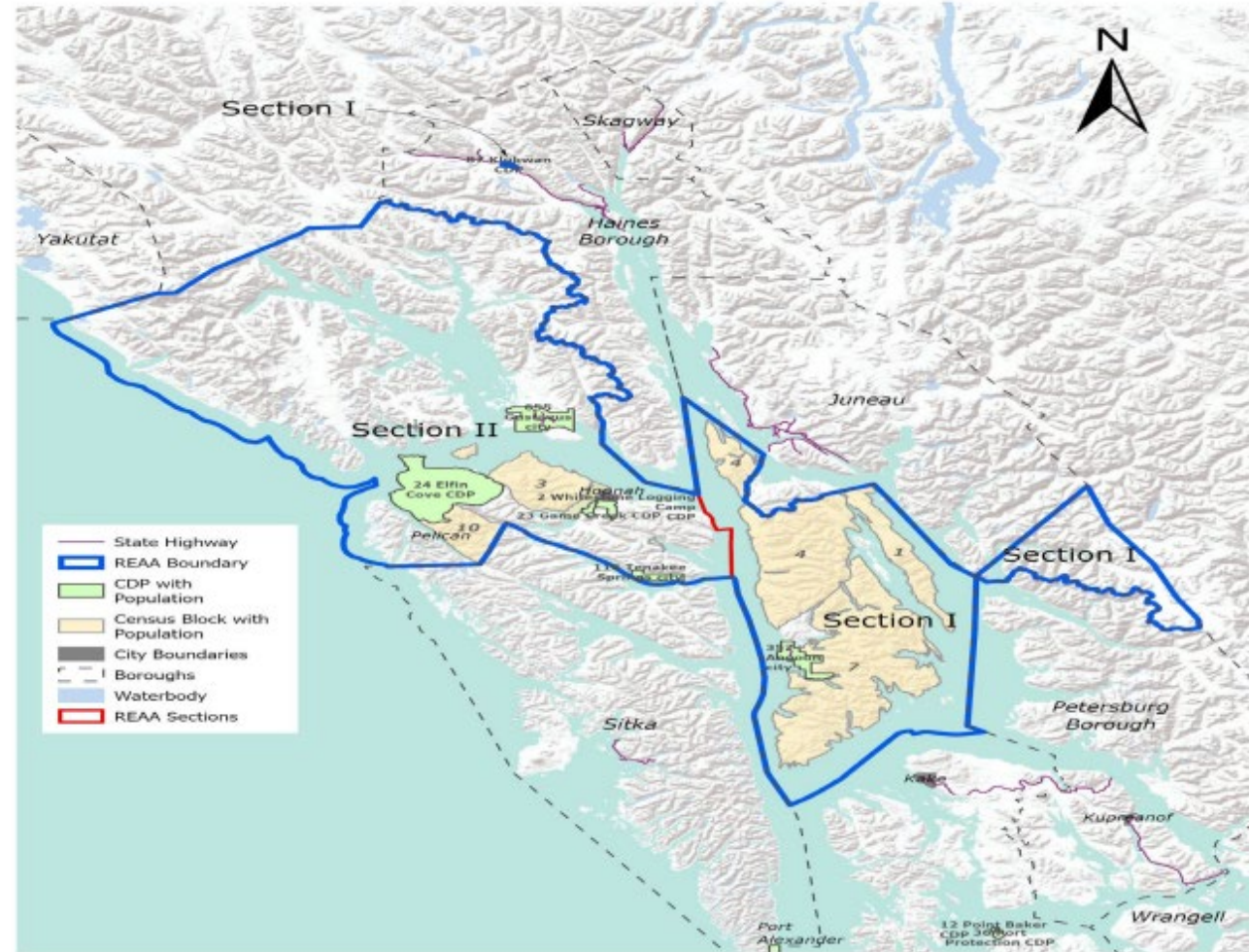
- Alaska Gateway
- Aleutian Region
- Annette Island
- Bering Straits
- Chatham
- Chugach
- Copper River
- Delta/Greely
- Iditarod
- Kashunamiut
- Kuspuk
- Lower Kuskokwim
- Lower Yukon
- Pribilof Islands
- Southeast Island
- Southwest Region
- Yukon Flats
- Yukon-Koyukuk
- Yupiiit



Representational boundary lines only

School Board Elections

- REAA elections are administered by the Division of Elections
- REAA School Boards consist of 5-11 members; same terms and qualifications as municipal boards
- REAA's are typically divided into sections for purposes of electing a resident within each area



Nominates and Elects by Section (2 Sections, 5 Seats)

Section I Seats A, B	Section II Seats C, D, E
Angoon, Areas (N & W of Angoon), Klukwan CDP, Areas (SW of Juneau)	Elfin Cove CDP, Areas (E of Elfin Cove), Areas (N of Elfin Cove), Game Creek CDP, Gustavus, Whitestone Logging Camp CDP, Tenakee Springs, Areas (N of Tenakee Springs)

School Board Duties

- Hires and evaluates superintendent
- Adopts and monitors budget; ensures audit occurs
- Sets and updates policies
 - Student learning
 - Personnel
 - Facilities care and maintenance

Funding REAAs

Operating Funding

- State aid for school districts (foundation funding): adjusted average daily membership (ADM) multiplied by base student allocation (BSA)
- Federal and other grant sources

Capital Funding

- AS 14.11 grants (School Construction and Major Maintenance)
- Federal and other grant sources

Average Basic Need per ADM

Basic Need

Adjusted for school size factors

- Smaller ADM schools receive more per student funding
- More small schools in REAAs

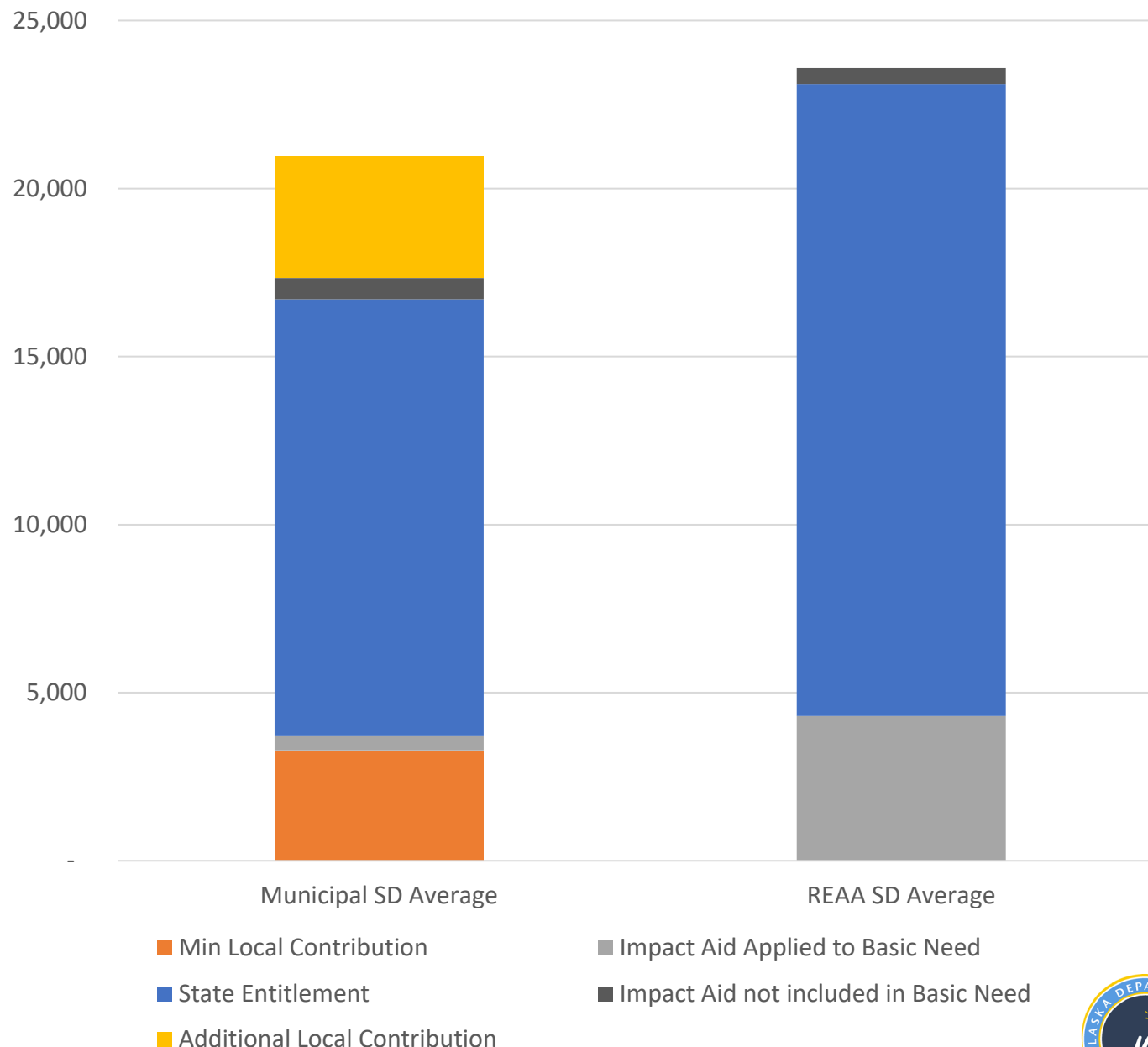
District cost factors

Municipal average cost factor: 1.365
 REAA average cost factor: 1.667

Correspondence ADM receives less per student funding

- More correspondence in municipal districts

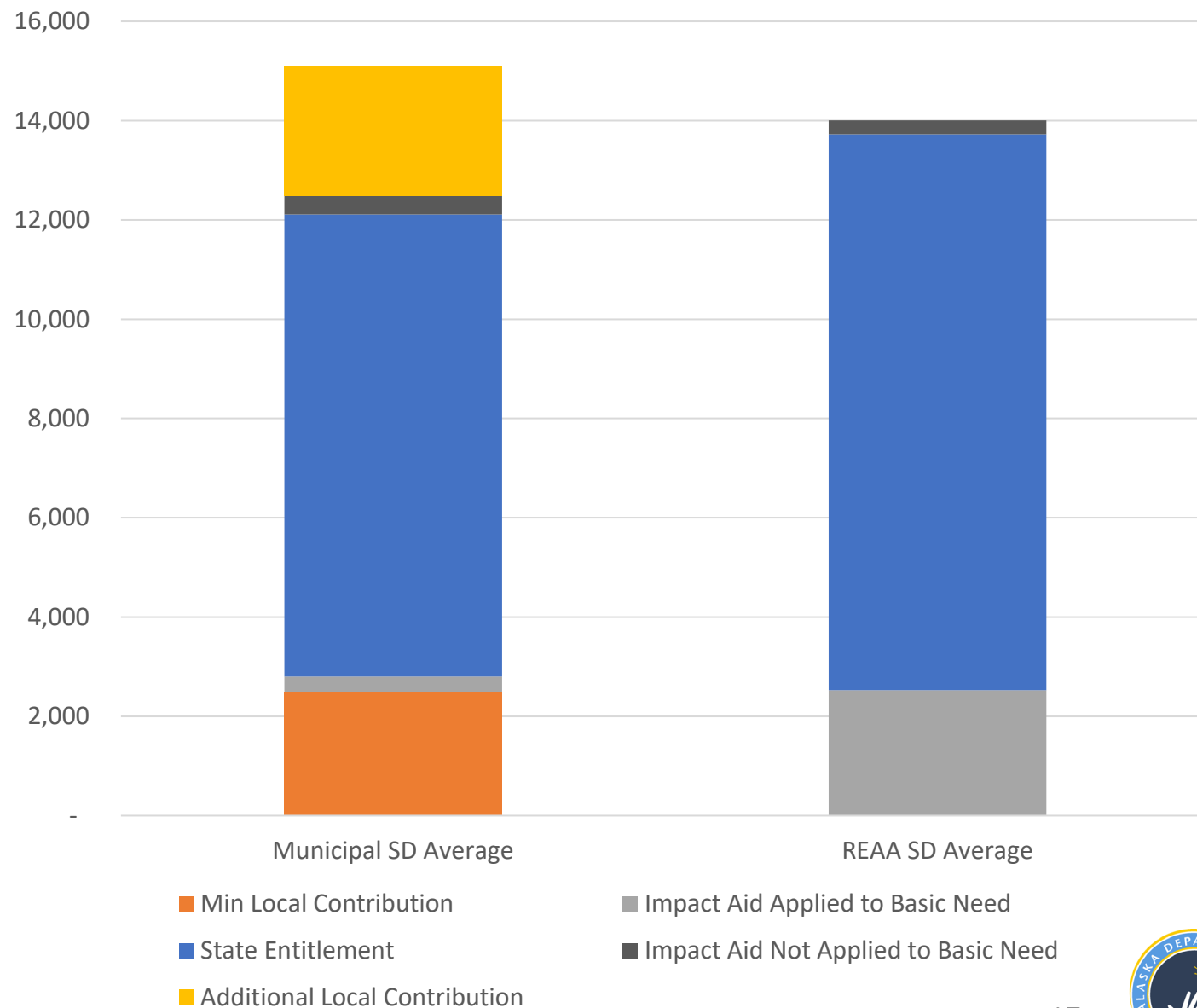
Basic Need Statewide Average Per ADM



FY2025 data Foundation calculation 16

Average Basic Need per ADM Normed to Anchorage Cost

Basic Need Statewide Average per ADM (normed to Anchorage cost)



FY2025 data Foundation calculation 17



Facility Ownership

- AS 14.08.151 provides that ownership of land and buildings is with the state, and REAAs are given use permits
 - Also allows school board to request title from the state
- Eight REAAs have title to all properties; remaining 11 REAAs are a mix of district-owned or -leased and state-owned or -leased.

Use Permits

Use permit is required for all districts utilizing a state-owned property

Use permit requirements established in 4 AAC 31.090, superseded previously issued use permit

- Property's primary purpose is education
- Maintain property in good repair and operating condition; capital improvements responsibility of the state
- Maintain insurance: property loss, worker's compensation, general liability
- Notify DEED regarding hazardous substance damage or lawsuits resulting from use of property
- District may request termination for a property, if no longer needed to provide education in a community

Capital Funding

- Capital funding through competitive grant application: School Construction Grant Fund, Major Maintenance Grant Fund, and the REAA Fund
- 4 AAC 31.090(a)(4) “to the extent provided by law, financing for capital improvement projects remains the responsibility of the state”
- State-funded projects through Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (teacher housing); Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (e.g., Village Safe Water), etc.
- Federal grants, including Impact Aid Construction funds

Thank you!

Questions?

Contact Information

Mori Weed, School Finance Manager

Mori.Weed@alaska.gov

(907) 465-2785

Weather Heineken, Finance & Support Services Director

Weather.Heineken@alaska.gov

(907) 269-6889



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