

# Alaska State Library Grant Programs Early Learning Programs

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

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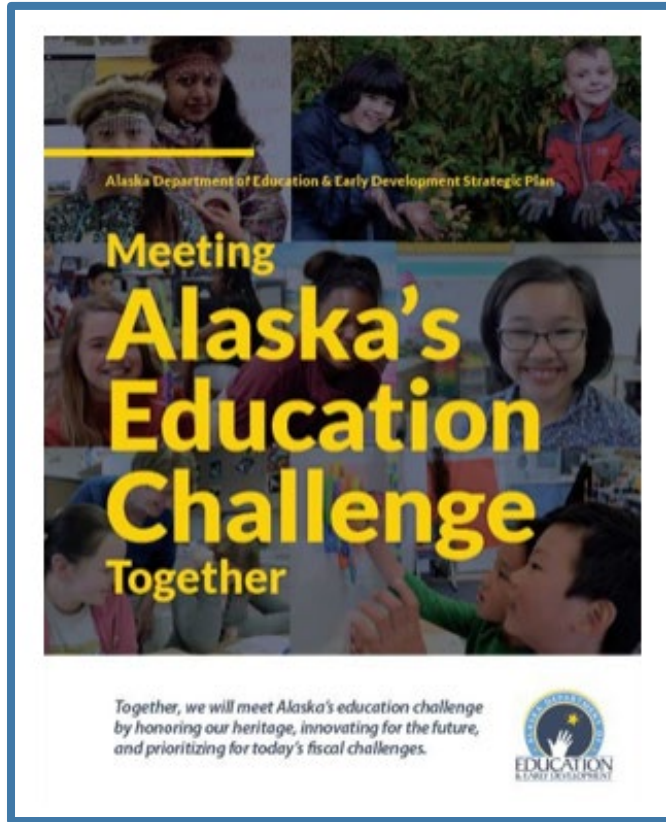
February 26, 2025



# 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 <b>information, resources, and leadership</b> to support an excellent education for every student every day.

# 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.

# Online with Libraries (OWL)

## GOALS:

- Provide Alaska residents with access to high-speed internet and computing equipment in public libraries.
- Provide information technology training to Alaska library staff and residents.
- Provide wireless session measurement services that provide statistics on the use of library internet services.

## FUNDING (*Component: OWL*):

- FY2025: \$493.0 UGF
- FY2026: \$494.3 UGF

## IMPACT:

- The OWL program underwent a structural change in FY2025 to create a well-defined grant application process and offer more direct funding to Alaska libraries for internet cost assistance.
- OWL helped connect Alaskans with high-speed internet, videoconferencing, and information technology training by providing internet assistance awards to 45 Alaska libraries in FY2025 (up from 12 Alaska libraries in FY2024).
- The OWL program supported over 40 Alaska libraries in FY2025 by providing free access to a service that counts wireless sessions on public library computers.

# Statewide Library Electronic Doorway (SLED)

## GOALS:

- Provide an easy-to-use website that connects users to high-quality Alaska-focused information.
- Provide Alaska residents access to licensed databases offerings magazines, newspapers, and full text articles.
- Provide access to curated Alaska-focused websites from Art and Literature to Science and Health.

## FUNDING (*Component: Library Operations*):

- FY2025: \$319.5 FED
- FY2026: \$0.0 FED

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Grants-to-States Award funds the SLED Program. Grant funds are distributed through a partner service agreement between the Alaska State Library and Alaska Library Network.

## IMPACT:

- Provides Alaskans access to 50 licensed databases on SLED.
- Users made approximately 260,000 searches for information across databases on SLED in calendar year 2024.

# Public Library Assistance (PLA) Grants Program

## GOALS:

- Provide grant funding to public libraries in Alaska, including combined public-school libraries, for critical operating costs including staff, utilities, collection materials, computers, and educational programming.

## FUNDING: (*Component: Library Operations*):

- FY2025: \$574.0 UGF
- FY2026: \$574.0 UGF

## IMPACT:

- 82 Alaska public libraries received PLA grants for essential operations and services in FY2025.
- Alaska public libraries that receive a PLA grant are required to complete an online Public Libraries Annual Report. This report provides essential information about library visits, circulation, size of collections, public service hours, staffing, electronic resources, operating revenue and expenditures, and number of service outlets.
- Data from the reports is sent to the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) who compiles the information into a nation-wide Public Libraries Survey.

# Early Learning Coordination

## GOALS:

- Promote school readiness on positive outcomes in all area of child development addressed the Alaska Early Learning Guidelines.
- Ensure that early childhood professionals have excellent preparation, ongoing professional development, and compensation commensurate with their qualifications and experience to provide the most effective teacher/child interactions.
- Maximize parental options and continuity of care, by encouraging community-based collaboration of early learning support.

## FUNDING (*Component: Early Learning Coordination*):

- FY2025: \$130.0 FED, FY2025: \$14,133.2 UGF
- FY2026: \$130.0 FED, FY2026: \$14,778.6 UGF

## IMPACT:

- Provide grants to Head Start programs to support non-federal match requirement.
- Provide grants for the Parents as Teachers program for home-based services to children and their parents/guardians. Four organizations received grants in FY2025 serving 175 children in six communities in partnership with the Department of Health.
- Provide access to books to young children through a grant to Best Beginnings to support the Imagination Library program. In FY2025, 172,364 books were delivered to children. Alaska's families participated in 22 in-person family engagement activities, serving 3,631 individuals.
- Support Learn & Grow, the state's Quality Recognition and Improvement System, providing training and frameworks to districts to establish high-quality early education programs.

# Pre-Elementary Grants (PEG)

## GOALS:

- Offer competitive three-year grants to school districts to support pre-kindergarten programs.
- Support the use of child reliable and valid assessment systems and tools to ensure programs are effectively measuring children's progress.
- Support district and non district programs through funding, training, and technical assistance.

## FUNDING (*Component: Pre-Kindergarten Grants*):

- FY2025: \$3,200.0 UGF
- FY2026: \$3,200.0 UGF

## IMPACT:

- Seven of the nine grantees are participating in the Learn & Grow program, receiving training, coaching, and supported movement through levels of quality.
- Increased enrollment in pre-elementary programs through inclusion of correspondence students.

## Current Grantees

- Aleutians East Borough School District
- Bristol Bay Borough School District
- Chugach School District
- Juneau Borough School District
- Kodiak Island Borough School District
- Lake & Peninsula Borough School District
- Nome Public Schools
- Southwest Region School District
- Yukon-Koyukuk School District



# Early Education Program Grants (EEP)

## GOALS:

- Provide an avenue for districts with high quality early education programs to receive formula funding for their four- and five-year students through the Alaska Reads Act.
- Promote school readiness on positive outcomes in all area of child development as addressed in the Alaska Early Learning Guidelines.
- Support the transition of pre-elementary children to kindergarten through partnership and strong school and family relationships.

## FUNDING (*Component: Pre-Kindergarten Grants*):

- FY2025: \$2,999.9 UGF
- FY2026: \$2,999.9 UGF

## IMPACT:

- Districts received financial support in the form of three-year grants to school districts to provide early education programs.
- Districts established programs focused on the Alaska Early Education Program Standards to be eligible for formula funding.

## Current Grantees

### Cohort 1 FY2024-FY2026

- Denali Borough School District
- Galena City School District
- Hydaburg City School District
- Iditarod Area School District
- Kake City School District
- Kuspuk School District
- Lower Kuskokwim School District

### Cohort 2 FY2025-FY2027

- Alaska Gateway School District
- Northwest Arctic Borough School District

# Alaska Reads Act- EEP Administration

## GOALS:

- Support districts to develop or improve district-wide early education programs for four- and five-year old children as outlined in the Alaska Reads Act.
- Ensure that all school districts become eligible for 0.5 average daily membership (ADM) formula funding.
- Provide professional development and technical assistance for high-quality early education programs.

## FUNDING (*Component: Student and School Achievement*):

- FY2025: \$360.1 UGF
- FY2026: \$360.0 UGF

## IMPACT:

- In FY2025, 120 educators working in pre-kindergarten programs received training in the Science of Reading (LETRS for Early Childhood Educators) leading to the Alaska Reads Act Early Education Lead Teacher endorsement.
- Three districts are currently receiving 0.5 ADM.
  - Anchorage School District eligible in FY2024 (\$1,693.6) and FY2025 (\$1,945.1)
  - Skagway City School District eligible in FY2025 (\$15.2)
  - Valdez City School District eligible in FY2025 (\$90.2)

# Special Education for Preschool Programs

## GOALS:

- Support early identification of children experiencing developmental delays and/or disabilities, by providing districts with a standardized developmental screening “childcare and stages” questionnaire.
- Support districts in the identification of appropriate services to meet the needs of preschool children who experience developmental delays and/or disabilities.
- Build district capacity in the development of positive behavior interventions and supports through the Pyramid Model.

## FUNDING (*Component: Student and School Achievement*):

- FY2025: \$218.0 FED
- FY2026: \$218.0 FED

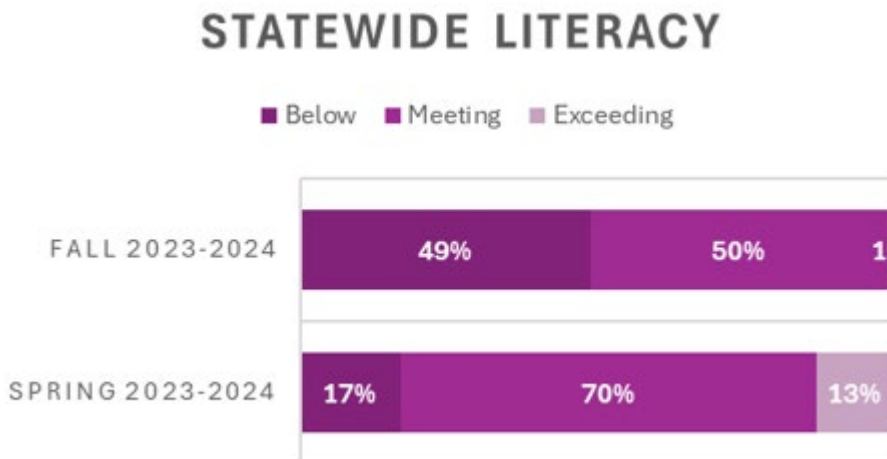
## IMPACT:

- FY2025, the first year of ASQ implantation, 25 of 53 districts are utilizing the developmental screening tool.
- Established the Pyramid Model Statewide Leadership Team consisting of the Department of Health, thread, the Alaska Head Start Association, Alaska Mental Health Authority, and private child-care centers.
- For FY2026 the Pyramid Model Statewide Leadership Team will pilot the implementation of the Pyramid Model for programs not enrolled in Learn & Grow.

# Early Learning Assessment, *Teaching Strategies GOLD*



- Required of all grantees
- Teacher Observational Tool
  - Based on widely held expectations-research based benchmarks
  - Administered twice a year in the fall and the spring



Areas observed:

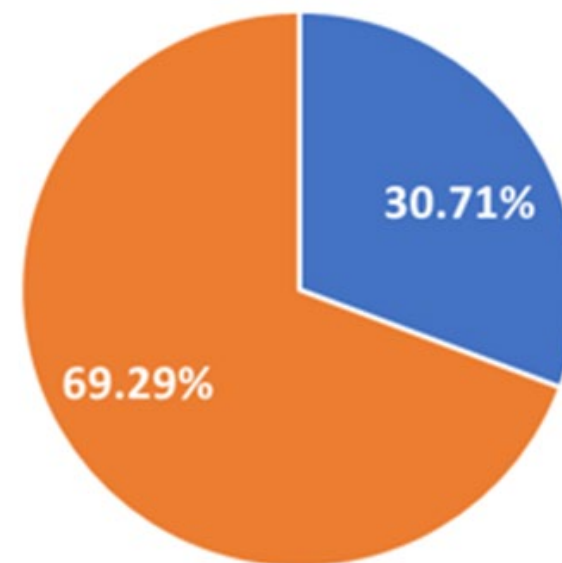
- Social Emotional
- Physical
- Language
- Cognitive
- Mathematics
- Literacy



# Alaska Developmental Profile

- Observational assessment administered in the first four weeks of school
- Teachers provide a rating for each student in 13 goals

Statewide Alaska Developmental Profile Scores  
Fall 2024

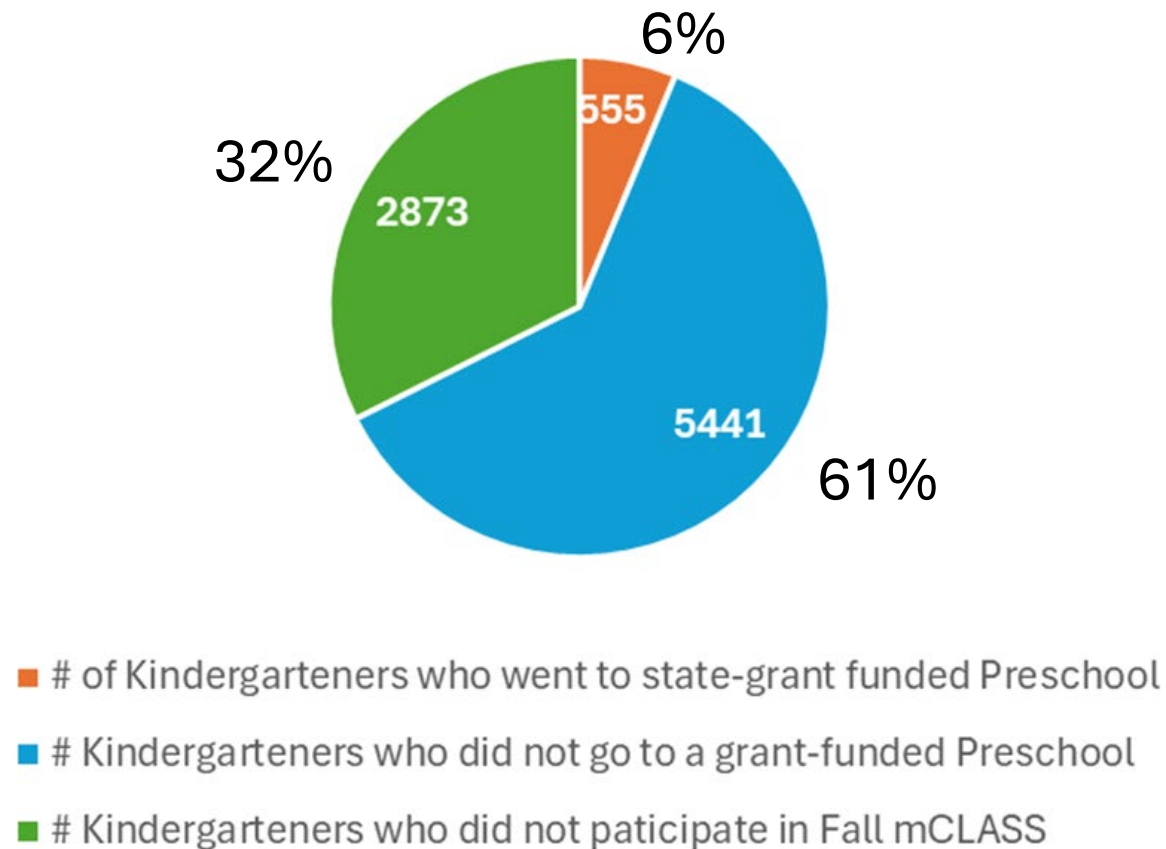


- Consistently Demonstrating in at Least 11 of the 13 Goals
- Not Consistently Demonstrating in at Least 11 out of 13 goals

# Pre-elementary Students Literacy Screener Results in Kindergarten

8,869  
Kindergarten  
students  
screened

Participation in Fall 2024-2025 in mCLASS



# Contact Information

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# Stay Connected

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- Facebook and Twitter: @AlaskaDEED

## Give us a call:

- Main line: 907-465-2800
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