

Alaska Reads Act Update

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

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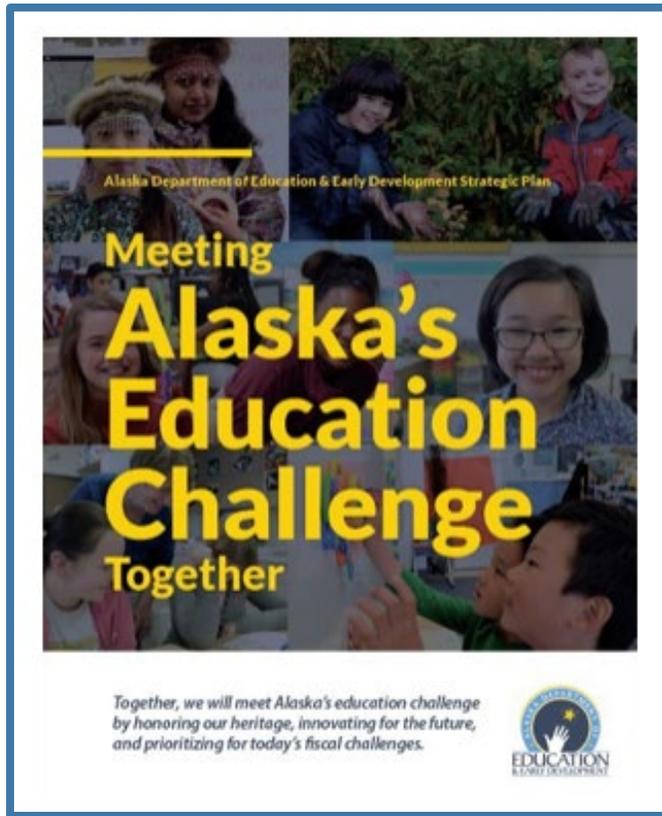
February 28, 2025



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.

Alaska Reads Act Enacted: *Est. July 1, 2024*

AS 14.30.765 & AS 14.30.770

Components

- District Reading Improvement Plan
- Department Reading Program
- Early Education Programs (presented February 26, 2025)
- Virtual Learning Consortium

Alaska Reads Act: Goal 1

Ensuring All Students Read Proficiently by the End of Third Grade

The act emphasizes early literacy interventions and progress monitoring to help students reach grade-level reading proficiency by the end of third grade.

- Early literacy screening and assessment
- Evidence-based reading instruction aligned with the *Science of Reading*
- Progress monitoring to track student growth
- Family and community engagement to support literacy development

Alaska Reads Act: Goal 2

Providing Support for Struggling Readers

The act establishes a multi-tiered system of support, including evidence-based interventions, reading improvement plans, and targeted resources for students who are not meeting grade-level expectations.

- Reading Improvement Plans for students below proficiency
- Targeted interventions using structured literacy approaches
- Additional instructional time for students needing intensive support
- Resources and training for educators to implement interventions effectively

Alaska Reads Act: Goal 2

Providing Support for Struggling Readers

District Reading Improvement Plan (DRIP)

Two Requirements for all 52 School Districts serving K-3 students

Multi-Tiered System of Support system-wide framework

- K-3 Statewide Universal Screener for early identification, mCLASS DIBELS 8
- Three-tiered model of instructional support aligned to evidence-based practices
- Data-based decision making
- Progress monitoring
- Culturally responsive

Individual Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP)

- Screener identifies students below proficiency
- Districts / schools develop and implement individual plans
- Intensive reading intervention services, in addition to core instruction
- Explicit and systematic instruction using evidence-based and culturally responsive strategies
- Support reading intervention at home through family engagement
- Student Progression: Family notifications, summer school for 3rd grade (20 hours)

Alaska Reads Act: Goal 3

Enhancing Teacher Training and Professional Development

The act requires ongoing professional development for educators in the Science of Reading to ensure effective literacy instruction, including phonics-based approaches and assessment literacy.

- Statewide professional development in the Science of Reading
- Training in administering and interpreting literacy assessments
- Ongoing coaching and mentorship for teachers
- Support for implementing effective reading strategies in classrooms
- Virtual Learning Consortium

Alaska Reads Act: Goal 3

Teacher Training & Professional Development

Statewide professional development in the Science of Reading

- LETRS (Language Essentials for the Teaching of Reading and Spelling):
 - Intensive LETRS course for classroom educators (640 educators)
 - LETRS for Administrators – Principals Primer (120 educators)
 - LETRS for Early Childhood Educators (104 educators)
 - LETRS Local Certified Facilitator Training (25 educators)
- *Keys to Beginning Reading* (1,735 educators)
- Consortium of Reading Excellence: Supporting Effective Literacy Instruction (96 educators)
- Alaska Science of Reading Leadership Academy (67 educators)
- Science of Reading for Teachers (107 educators)
- Department of Education and Early Development-sponsored Alaska Reading Specialist Endorsement Program (45 new Reading Specialists in 16 districts)

Alaska Reads Act: Goal 3

Teacher Training & Professional Development

Statewide training in administering and interpreting literacy assessments

- Annual required *Amplify mCLASS* calibration training (1,896 educators)
- Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress Certified Facilitator training (113 educators representing all of Alaska's school districts)
- Department of Education and Early Development-sponsored semester-long assessment literacy course (64 educators)
- Assessment Literacy Webinars (611 educators)
- Consortium of Reading Excellence (CORE) Assessing Reading: Multiple Measures Course (18 educators)
- NWEA Data Literacy Leadership Series (50 educators)
- Saturday Sessions for Principals: Data Review and Analysis (100 educators)

Alaska Reads Act: Goal 3

Teacher Training & Professional Development

Ongoing coaching and mentorship for teachers

- *Professional Learning Communities at Work* trainings (2,100 educators)
- AK DEED Academic Support and Teaching & Learning Team staff: Education Specialists providing scheduled and on-demand support to districts, schools, and individual educators
- Coffee and Content Webinar Series (in-person attendees + on-demand access to recorded sessions via Virtual Learning Consortium)
- Alaska Science of Reading Symposium Attendance

Year	In-Person	Virtual	Total Attendees
2022	941	-	941
2023	972	725	1,697
2024	1,367	384	1,751

Alaska Reads Act: Goal 3

Teacher Training & Professional Development

Teacher training to support implementation of effective reading strategies in classrooms

- *Alaska's Reading Playbook* webinar training series
 - *Alaska's Reading Playbook for Teachers* webinar series (322 educators)
 - *Alaska's Reading Playbook for Administrators* webinar series (144 educators)
 - *Alaska's Reading Playbook On-Demand Training Modules* (AKLearns.org)
- Science of Reading for Early-Career Administrators (71 educators)
- Heggerty 101: Phonemic Awareness Course (92 educators)
- UFLI Foundations Course (160 educators)
- Phonics for Reading (353 educators)
- CORE Teaching Reading Sourcebook Course (12 educators)

Alaska Reads Act: Goal 3

Teacher Training & Professional Development

Materials to support effective reading strategies in classrooms

- Evidence-based Reading Curriculum Adoption Initiative: 34,026 students impacted
- *Alaska's Reading Playbook*: 1,800 copies distributed statewide
- Heggerty Phonemic Awareness: 6,399 copies distributed
- Phonics for Reading: 6,714 copies distributed
- CORE Teaching Reading Sourcebook: 13,053 copies distributed
- CORE Multiple Measures: 13,053 copies distributed
- UFLI Foundations: Science of Reading Teacher Resource Book: 351 copies distributed

Alaska Reads Act: Goal 3

Teacher Training & Professional Development

Virtual Learning Consortium: 2,824 Registrants

- Professional Development
 - Six literacy-specific asynchronous courses currently available; three additional courses being added soon
- Virtual Library
 - Free online resources, including research-based courses to train reading tutors
- Virtual Services
 - Synchronous reading tutoring, synchronous coaching, and technical assistance
- Student Resources
 - Mini asynchronous courses for students and virtual resources/elements for teacher use within classrooms

Alaska Reads Act: Accountability

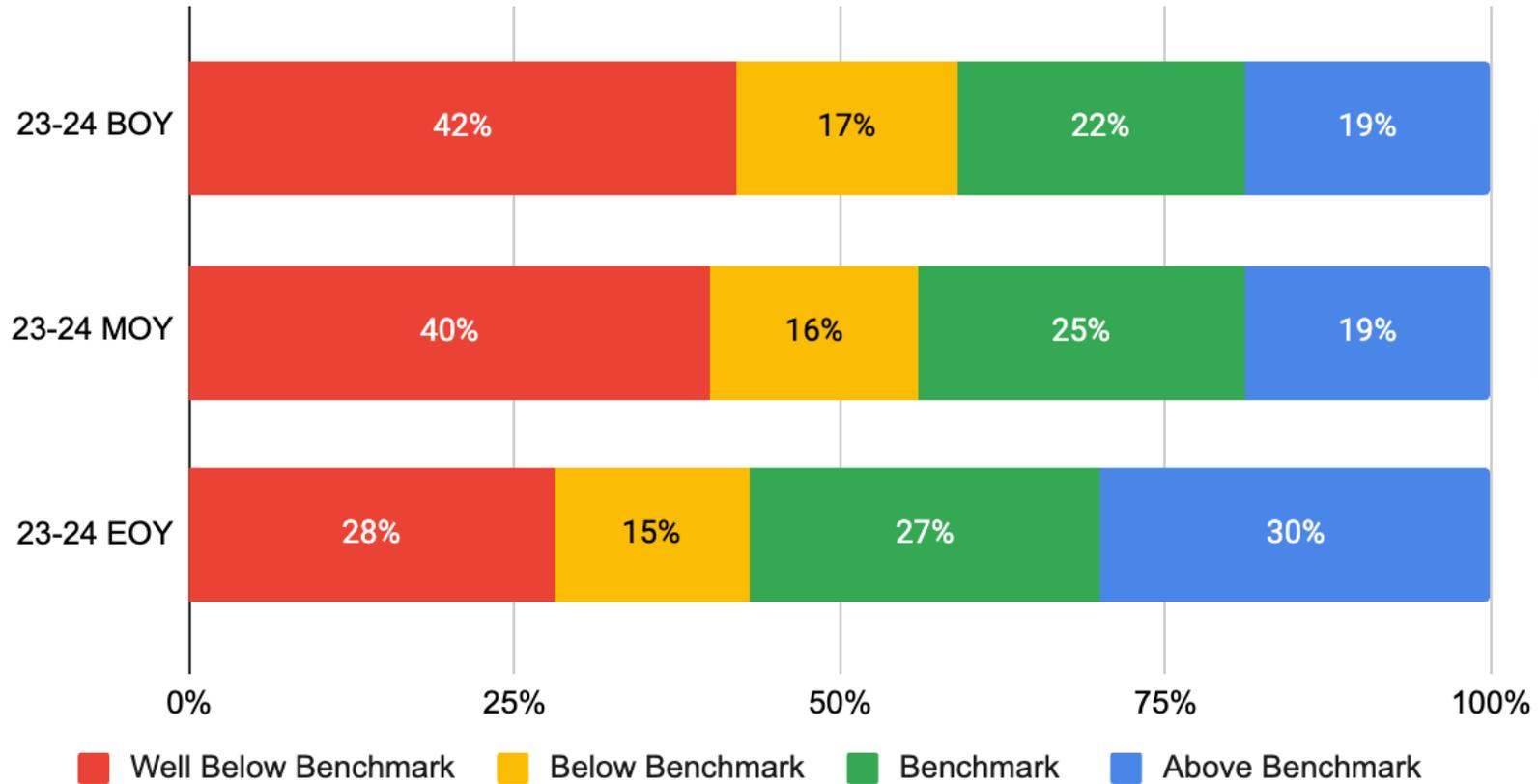
- Transparent student learning data
 - Administered three times per year
 - Alaska Native Language Screeners presently in development
- External evaluator and annual report
 - *Pacific Research and Evaluation*, first report March 2025
- Stakeholder input and review panel
 - Survey and Partnership with *Regional Education Laboratory Northwest*
 - *Region 16 Comprehensive Center*, November 2022 and November 2023
 - *Region 11 Comprehensive Center*, presently on hold

Year 1 AK Statewide Literacy Screener Results Kindergarten- Grade 3

Alaska K-3 Beginning of Year (BOY), Middle of Year (MOY), and End of Year (EOY) DIBELS 8 Composite Score 2023-24

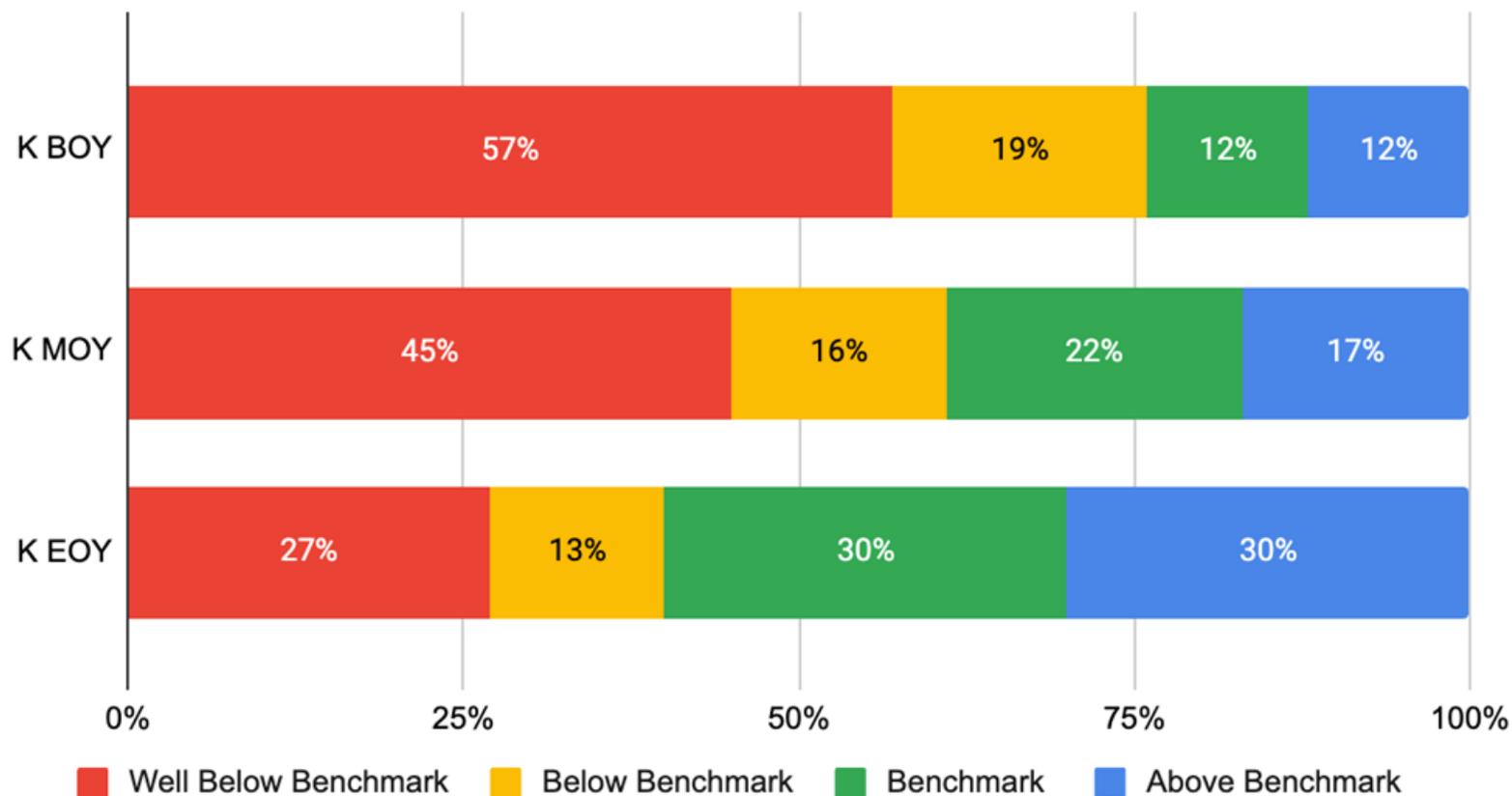
GOAL: fewer students are well below /below benchmark

GOAL: more students are benchmark /above



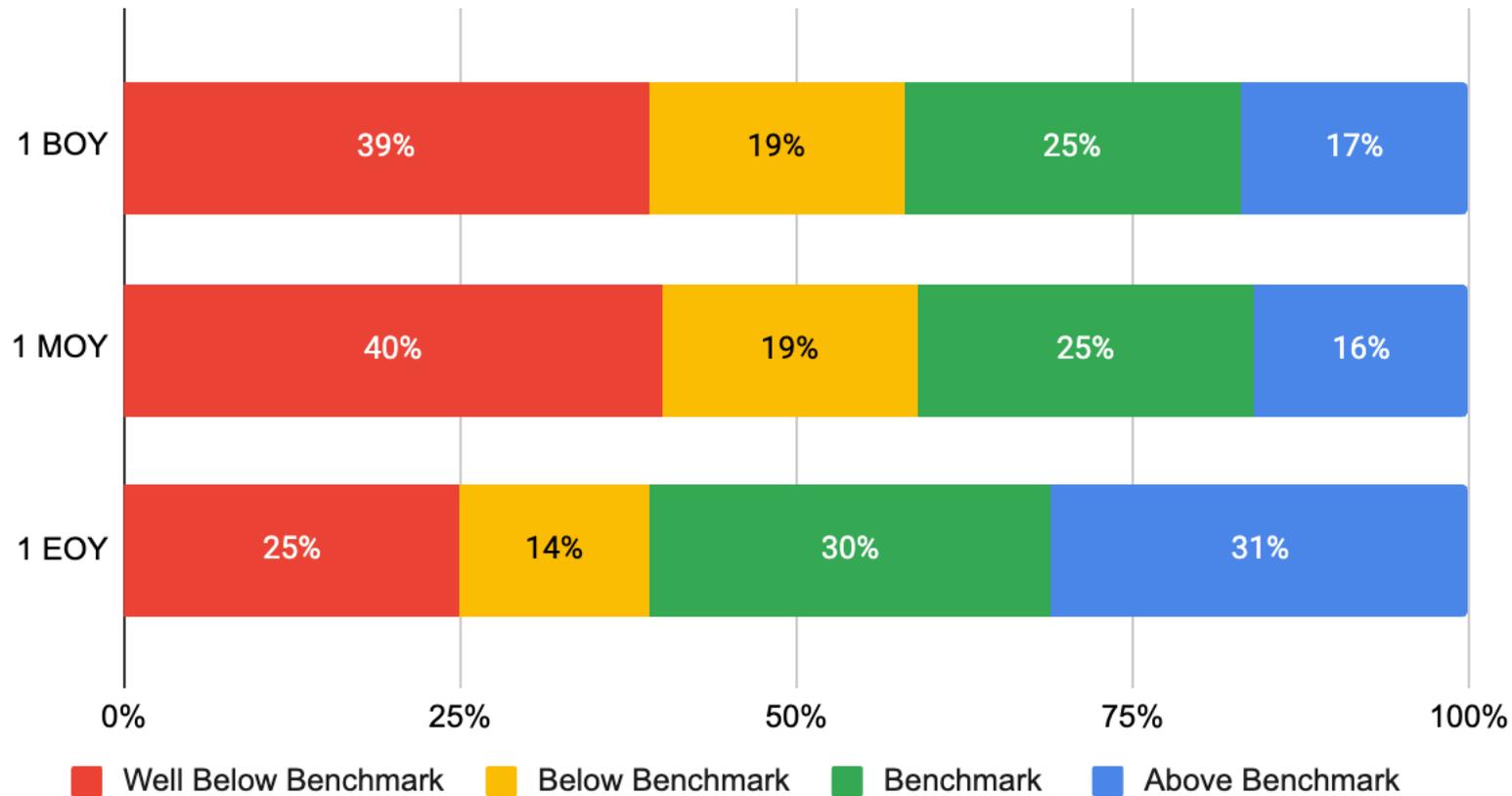
Year 1 AK Statewide Literacy Screener Results Kindergarten

Alaska BOY, MOY & EOY DIBELS 8 Composite Score 23-24, Grade K



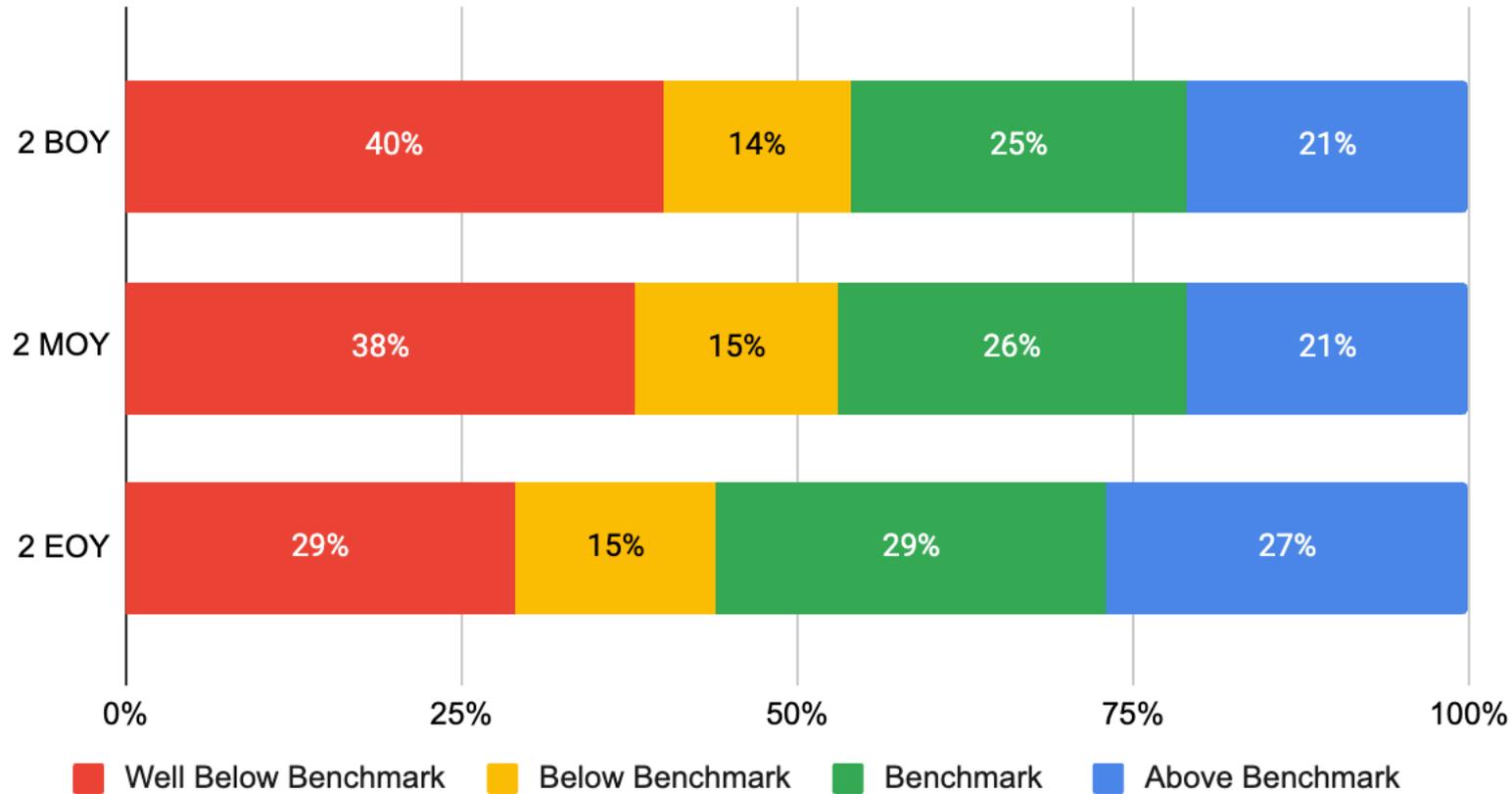
Year 1 AK Statewide Literacy Screener Results Grade 1

Alaska BOY, MOY & EOY DIBELS 8 Composite Score 23-24, Grade 1



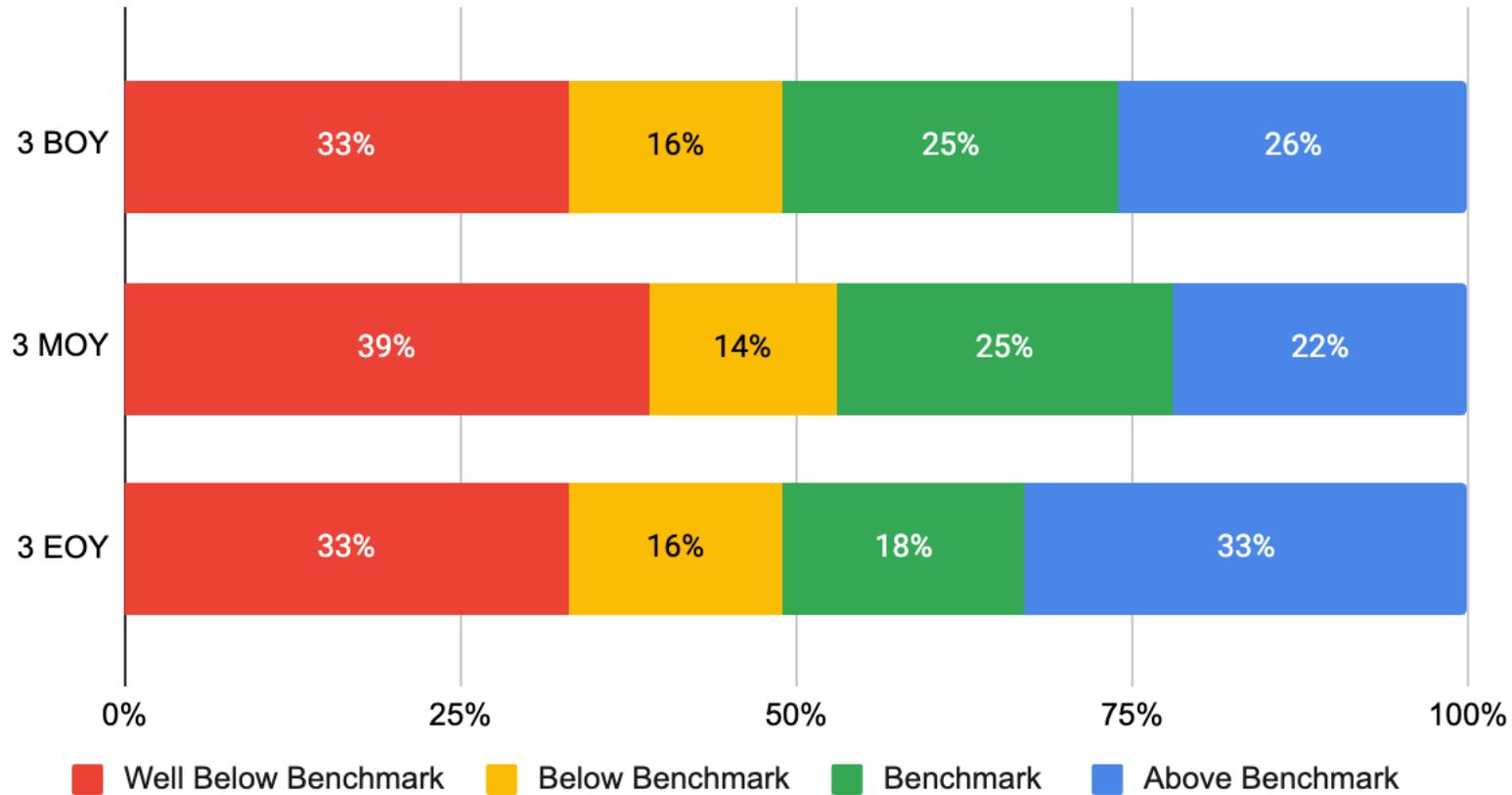
Year 1 AK Statewide Literacy Screener Results Grade 2

Alaska BOY, MOY & EOY DIBELS 8 Composite Score 23-24, Grade 2



Year 1 AK Statewide Literacy Screener Results Grade 3

Alaska BOY, MOY & EOY DIBELS 8 Composite Score 23-24, Grade 3



Alaska Reads Act Funding

Component	Source	Project	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026
Student and School Achievement	UGF	K-3 Reading	\$ 3,607.7	\$ 3,818.6	\$ 3,800.0
Pre-Kindergarten Grants	UGF	EEP Grants to Districts	\$ 2,999.9	\$ 2,999.9	\$ 2,999.9
Student and School Achievement	UGF	Early Education Admin	\$ 360.0	\$ 360.1	\$ 360.0
Student and School Achievement	FED	Literacy Screener	\$ 600.0	\$ 600.0	\$ 600.0
K-12 Support	UGF	Formula Funding	\$ 1,693.6	\$ 2,050.5	\$ 7,693.6
Total			\$ 9,261.2	\$ 9,829.1	\$ 15,453.9

Website

<https://education.alaska.gov/akreads>

The Alaska Reads Act

Supporting all students to read at grade level by the end of third grade is a top priority identified in Alaska's Education Challenge.

The Department of Education & Early Development is responsible for supporting and training pre-kindergarten through third grade teachers, curriculum specialists, and other educators by providing evidence-based instructional strategies on literacy. In June 2022, Governor Mike Dunleavy signed the Alaska Reads Act into law, creating four components to support early literacy.

Learn more about the Alaska Reads Act and the state's reading journey in this informational video: [Alaska's Road to Reading](#).

Subscribe to the [Page Turner: Literacy News](#) for weekly literacy updates.

Alaska Reads Act Components

District Reading Improvement Plan

The District Reading Improvement Plan (DRIP) is also known as the district K-3 Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) plan. The DRIP is **required** for all school districts to complete and submit to DEED by September 1st each year.

Department Reading Program

The Department Reading Program is offered as additional support for the lowest performing 25% of K-3 schools. This component of the AK Reads Act is voluntary and requires districts to apply each year.

Early Education Programs

The Early Education Program is voluntary and designed to provide resources to districts that are not adequately served by head start programs and other high-quality childcare.

Virtual Learning Consortium

The Virtual Learning Consortium is voluntary and makes virtual education and professional development resources available to students and teachers in the state.



Alaska Reads
#akreads

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[Alaska Native Language Literacy](#)

[Attendance](#)

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[Contact Information](#)

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