

Department of Education and Early Development

FY2025 Governor's Budget

House Finance Subcommittee

Dr. Deena Bishop, Commissioner

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February 16, 2024



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.

Statutory Duty of the Department

AS 14.03.010. Establishment of school system.

There is established in the state a system of public schools to be administered and maintained as provided in this title.

Chapter 07. Administration of Public Schools.

AS 14.07.010. Department of Education and Early Development.

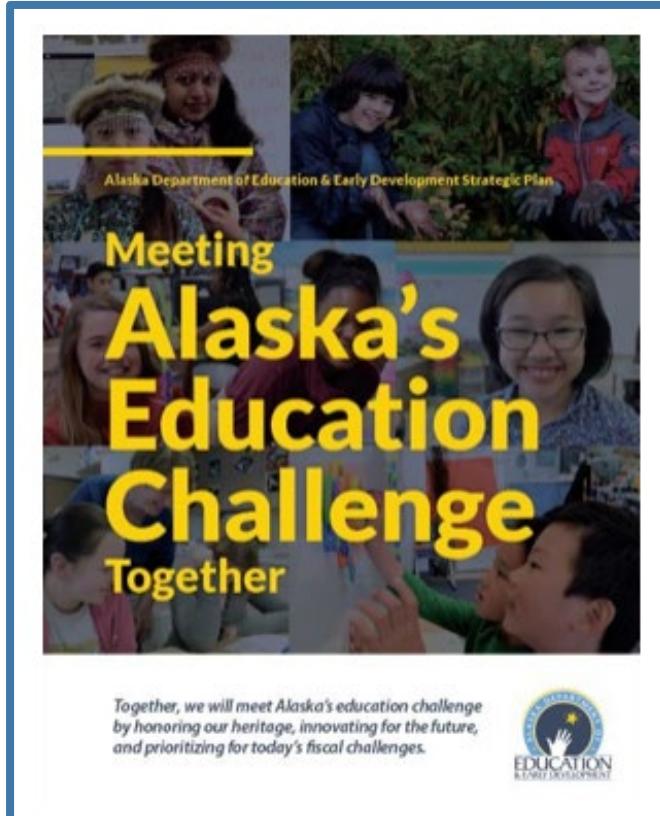
The Department of Education and Early Development includes the commissioner of education and early development, the state Board of Education and Early Development, and the staff necessary to carry out the functions of the department.

AS 14.07.020. Duties of the department.

(a) The department shall

(1) exercise general supervision over the public schools of the state except the University of Alaska;

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.

Agenda

- Broadband Assistance Grant (BAG) Program
- Coding in Minecraft
- Career Technical Education (CTE) Initiatives
- Assessment

Alaska School Broadband Assistance Grant (BAG) Program

(Allocation Transfer No Fiscal Impact)

2014: Established in 2014 to help schools reach 10Mbps internet download speeds.

2020: Revised statute to help schools reach 25Mbps download speeds.

FY2024: \$6.8 million awarded to 25 school districts and 136 schools in Alaska.

FY2025 Changes to School Broadband Assistance Grant (BAG) Program

(Allocation Transfer No Fiscal Impact)

- Programmatic transition from Division of Libraries, Archives & Museums to Division of Finance & Support Services
- Program management transition from a Services Contract to a Program Coordinator 2 position
- No significant funding changes in FY2025 Governor's Budget

Coding in Minecraft: Education Edition

(\$1,200.0 Covid-19) FY2024

Computer Science has become a “new basic” skill necessary for all students.

Majority of Alaska K-12 schools did not offer computer science (2021)

Coding in Minecraft is a computer science credential program with a supporting curriculum, delivered through the Minecraft: Education Edition.

State-wide availability gives ***each student*** in each school in the state **equal opportunity** and access to the following:

- ❖ Engagement in computer science
- ❖ Initiating pathways towards Career Technical Education
- ❖ Achieve credentials
- ❖ Transition to industry certifications and employment opportunity

Coding in Minecraft: Education Edition

(1,200.0 UGF) FY 2025 Base Funding Request

Coding in Minecraft has gained tremendous momentum among Alaska teachers and students.

October 2022: Statewide licensing became a reality through the effort of DEED and the Governor's Office through a partnership with Prodigy Learning, Microsoft, and Certiport.

FY2024: \$1.2 million was obligated to make 500 licenses for Coding in Minecraft available to schools.

Current Impact:

- 300 school licenses deployed across Alaska
- 100 Alaska teachers completed professional learning
- 900 Minecraft: Education Edition licenses issued to Alaska students
- 50 Coding in Minecraft credentials earned by Alaska students

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

(\$1,500.0 UGF) FY 2024 One-Time Increment

AK Education Challenge Priority: Increase career, technical, and culturally relevant education to meet student and workforce needs.

CTE Opportunities in Alaska's School Districts:

- Career and Technical Education Programs of Study (CTEPS)
- Dual Credit and Certification Opportunities
- Regional CTE Programs and District CTE Consortiums
- CTE Summer Learning Camps

Career and Technical Education (CTE) (\$1,500.0 UGF) FY2025 Base Funding Request

Expand CTE and Work-Based Learning Opportunities for Alaska's High School Students Aligned to Regional Workforce Development Needs.

- Provide Career and Technical Education Grants
- Pilot Regional Secondary Career Guides
- Develop Work-Based Learning Continuum & Tool Kit (FY24)
- Strengthen Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs)

“The **national average high school graduation rate** for students concentrating in **CTE programs is 94%**, compared to an average national graduation rate of 85%.”

Association of Career and Technical Education, 2022

Innovating Assessment for Alaska Students (Federal Covid-19 combined with UGF) FY2024

- 2017 – 2021** Alaska used the Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools (PEAKS) Assessment for English Language Arts, Math, and Science
- 2018** New Science Standards released
- 2021** Alaska Science Assessment piloted (planned for 2020, delayed due to COVID-19)
- 2022** Began Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR) implementation
- 2023** First implementation of fully aligned AK STAR assessment

Outcomes: By implementing the AK STAR assessments statewide, we incur a greater state cost. However, there is a reduction in district assessment costs, reduced assessment time at the district level, and increased data measures available to districts to target student learning needs and resources more effectively.

Increases in Assessment Costs (\$650.0 UGF) FY2025 Base Funding Request

- Standing up a new assessment incurs greater upfront costs, but reduced testing time
- DEED has reduced assessment costs in other areas to minimize cost increases overall
- By covering the cost of MAP Assessment DEED has reduced the associated district assessment costs
- Growth assessments are now paid for by the state

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Stay Connected

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