

# **State of Alaska**

# **FY2019 Governor's Operating Budget**

**Department of Education and Early Development**

## Department of Education and Early Development

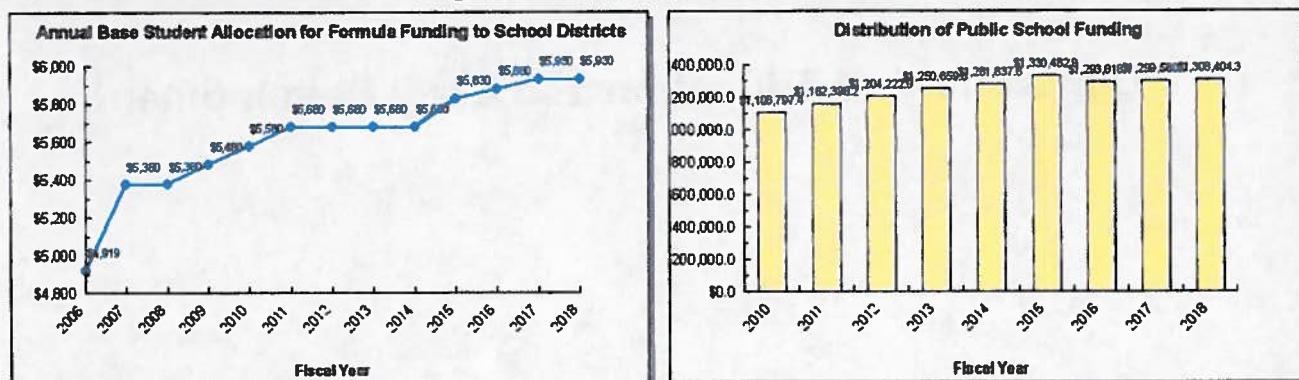
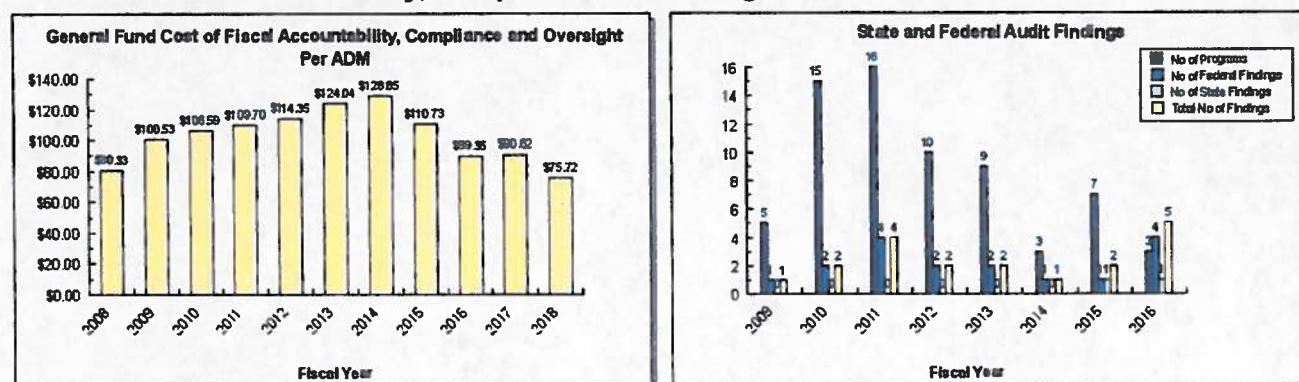
**Mission**

To ensure quality standards-based instruction to improve academic achievement for all students. Alaska Constitution Article 7, Sec. 1; AS 14.17

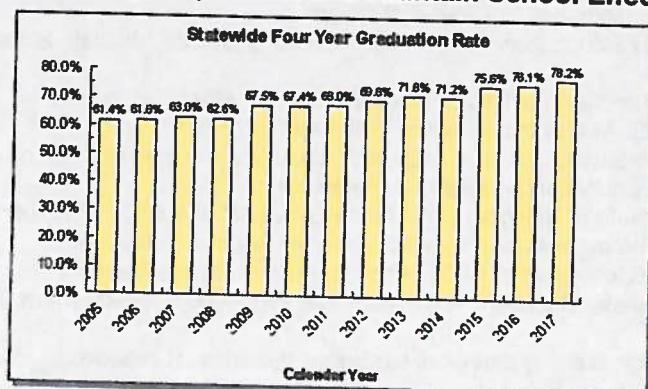
Core Services (in priority order)	UGF	DGF	Other	Fed	Total	PFT	PPT	NP	% GF
1 Public School Funding	1,267,782.1	0.0	20,000.0	20,791.0	1,308,573.1	0	0	0	95.6%
2 Fiscal Accountability, Compliance and Oversight	9,830.7	916.3	2,269.0	227,951.6	240,967.6	91	0	0	0.8%
3 School Effectiveness Programs	13,333.5	11,750.0	0.0	280.9	25,364.4	5	0	0	1.9%
4 Active Partnerships	9,130.5	13,296.4	40,307.9	2,306.6	65,041.4	179	14	4	1.7%
<b>FY2018 Management Plan</b>	<b>1,300,076.8</b>	<b>25,962.7</b>	<b>62,576.9</b>	<b>251,330.1</b>	<b>1,639,946.5</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	

**Measures by Core Service**

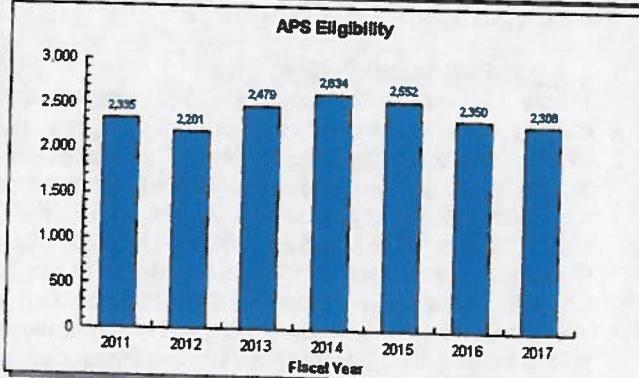
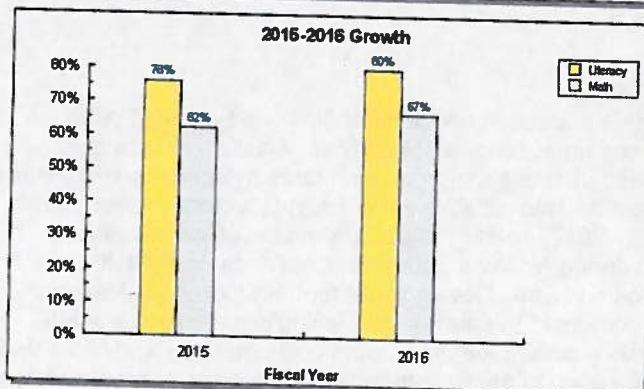
(Additional performance information is available on the web at <https://omb.alaska.gov/results>.)

**1. Distribute Public School Funding to school districts and other educational institutions****2. Provide Fiscal Accountability, Compliance and Oversight**

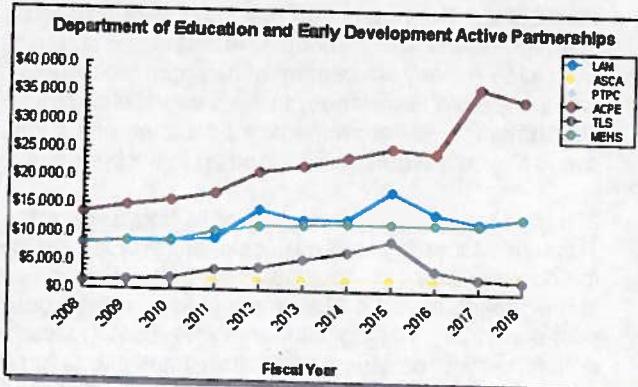
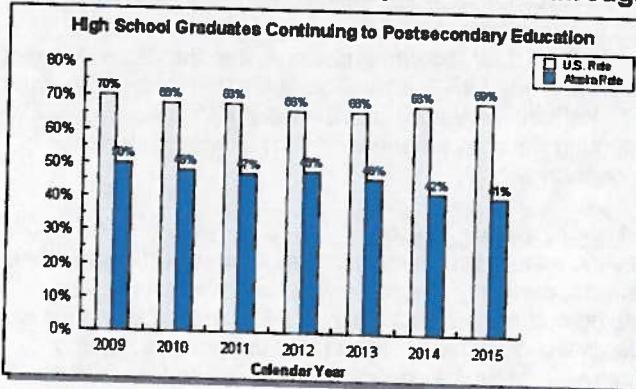
### 3. Develop, implement and maintain School Effectiveness Programs



Target: Provide a Statewide System of Support to facilitate school effectiveness measures



### 4. Maintain Active Partnerships for Pre-K through 20 and lifelong learning



### Major Department Accomplishments in 2017

- Received the Department of Education & Early Development's (DEED) performance review report from the Legislative Budget and Audit Committee in October 2016 and began taking steps to implement some of the recommendations; including role clarification for the State Board of Education and Early Development.
- The State Board of Education and Early Development continued work on the strategic plan and the five strategic priorities: Amplify Student Learning; Ensure Excellent Educators; Modernize the Education System; Inspire Tribal and Community Ownership of Educational Excellence; and Promote Safety and Well-Being.
- Began work on the Governor's Alaska's Education Challenge initiative, which is a comprehensive analysis and reconsideration of Alaska's system of public education. Throughout February 2017, nearly 1,400 Alaskans in 109 communities submitted over 18,000 ideas for topics to be considered during Alaska's Education Challenge. From April through September 2017, five committees met to develop recommendations

- around five strategic priorities.
- Fall submission of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) application.
- Facilitated a Spring Leadership Conference for 175 educators from across Alaska to finalize Alaska's State Plan for the federal ESSA.
- Successful implementation of the new academic content Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools (PEAKS) assessment in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics in the spring of 2017.
- Continued the review of the Mt. Edgecumbe High School curriculum by staff, including the presentation of the technology curriculum before the State Board of Education and Early Development;
- The Alaska State Museum was awarded the Institute of Museum and Library Services' (MLS) 2017 National Medal for Museum and Library Services; this is the highest award available for museums and libraries.
- Continued to implement the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) in collaboration with the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and Alaska school districts; and,
- Underwent an organizational change to better align staffing and work to current department initiatives.

## Key Department Challenges

### **1. Alaska's Education Challenge**

Alaska's Education Challenge is a comprehensive analysis and reconsideration of Alaska's system of public education that guides and inspires communities to demand great schools. In addition, Alaska's Education Challenge is to address the student achievement gaps and increase the graduation rates by ensuring every student across Alaska has equal opportunities to learn and succeed. This initiative started with Governor Walker's State of the State Address in January 2017. Throughout February 2017, nearly 1,400 Alaskans in 109 communities submitted over 18,000 ideas for topics to be considered during Alaska's Education Challenge. In April 2017, Commissioner Johnson and the State Board of Education and Early Development formally kicked off Alaska's Education Challenge with nearly 100 Alaskans from all corners of the state representing diverse backgrounds, interests, and experiences. During the kick-off meeting they came together to work collaboratively and focus their efforts on developing transformative recommendations for each of the five strategic priorities set by the State Board of Education and Early Development: Amplify Student Learning; Ensure Excellent Educators; Modernize the Education System; Inspire Tribal and Community Ownership of Educational Excellence; and Promote Safety and Well-Being. The nearly 100 Alaskans were organized into five committees and the work of each committee spanned almost seven months. After the five committees put forth their recommendations, and the State Board of Education & Early Development has approved the final recommendations, they will be submitted to the Governor and the Alaska Legislature; this will be in December 2017. With the Governor and the Alaska Legislature, the department must determine how best to go about implementing the recommendations put forward within the constraints of resources and funding available within the department.

### **2. Increase student achievement in language arts and mathematics, ongoing**

Through supporting staff professional development, reviewing school improvement plans, and providing coaches, the department works to support schools' improvement efforts, particularly schools with low levels of student achievement. In 2012, Alaska adopted more rigorous reading and math standards aligned to the expectations of post-secondary training. Students who meet these standards will graduate prepared to enter post-secondary options without requiring additional remedial training or courses. While the department works with local school districts to ensure their locally adopted curriculum and instructional programs are aligned to standards, many small, rural districts struggle to maintain consistent efforts related to curriculum, instructional programs, and school-based assessments due to lack of capacity and frequent staff turnover. Additionally, students in these districts may lack access to high-level course offerings and rich elective course options. The department must consider how best to support these districts and whether current support systems need to be restructured to most effectively use available federal and state funds.

### **3. Implementation of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and a school accountability system**

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was passed by Congress and signed by the President in December 2015. ESSA reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) and replaces No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and Alaska's current NCLB Flexibility Waiver. Alaska's transition to, and implementation of, ESSA was a thorough and thoughtful process informed by meaningful consultation with state and local education stakeholders. ESSA requires that State Educational Agencies (SEAs) develop a State Plan addressing three components: Standards and Assessments; School, District, and State Accountability Systems; and School Support

and Improvement. SEAs must develop state plans "with timely and meaningful consultation with the Governor, members of the State legislature and State board of education, local educational agencies, representatives of Indian tribes located in the State, teachers, principals, other school leaders, charter school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, administrators, other staff, and parents." (Every Student Succeeds Act, Sec. 1111)

To facilitate the transition to ESSA, the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development (DEED) conducted a review of the work required to fully implement the new law. As with implementation of any program of such significance and complexity, changes will occur over the course of months and even years. Some changes were initiated immediately upon signing, some will be implemented relatively quickly, and others will be finalized over the course of the next two years only upon receipt of additional federal regulations and guidance, and collaborative input by state and local education stakeholders.

### **Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2019**

- Implementation of the Alaska's Education Challenge recommendations and transforming Alaska's system of public education;
- Implementation of new statewide accountability system as required by state and federal law;
- Implementation of the U.S. Department of Education (USED) approval of Alaska ESSA application;
- Support of school districts in using data from statewide assessments to inform local improvement efforts;
- Support of adjustments to locally adopted curriculum and instructional programs to improve student achievement;
- Increased awareness of the new comprehensive accountability system for schools. Providing information to parents, educators, and policy makers that can be used to determine how Alaska's schools are performing;
- Supporting school districts as they fully implement the assessment and accountability systems;
- Providing focused, coordinated and coherent district and school improvement support services to create more effective educational programs and improve student achievement;
- Providing support for increasing the statewide graduation rate; and,
- Further evaluation and adjustment of the department's structure and administration of programs to meet its state and federal responsibilities as budgetary reductions continue to occur.

### **Contact Information**

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