

## Department of Education and Early Development

### Mission

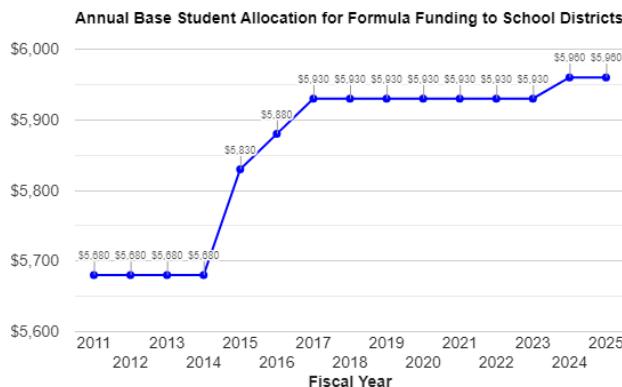
It is the policy of this state that the purpose of education is to help ensure that all students will succeed in their education and work, shape worthwhile and satisfying lives for themselves, exemplify the best values of society, and be effective in improving the character and quality of the world about them. Alaska Statute 14.03.015

Core Services (in priority order)		UGF	DGF	Other	Fed	Total	PFT	PPT	NP	% GF
1	Public School Funding	1,347,859.8	0.0	35,531.0	20,791.0	1,404,181.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	91.9%
2	Fiscal Accountability, Compliance and Oversight	14,682.9	918.2	4,699.3	235,662.9	255,963.3	101.6	0.0	6.0	1.1%
3	School Effectiveness Programs	46,463.7	26,302.4	1.0	6,393.1	79,160.2	27.2	0.0	3.0	5.0%
4	Active Partnerships	23,356.3	7,239.7	34,753.0	4,213.1	69,562.1	148.2	10.0	7.0	2.1%
<b>FY2026 Management Plan</b>		<b>1,432,362.7</b>	<b>34,460.3</b>	<b>74,984.3</b>	<b>267,060.1</b>	<b>1,808,867.4</b>	<b>277.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>16.0</b>	

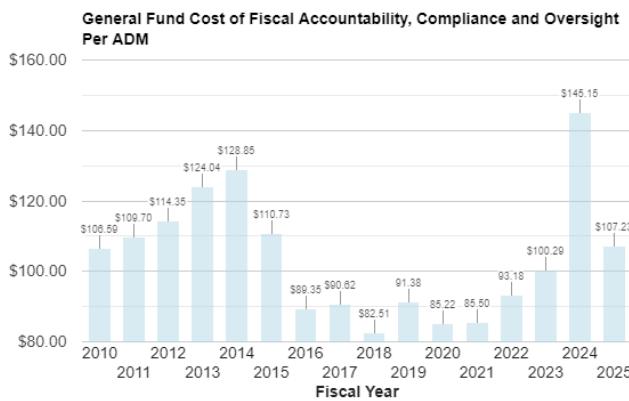
### Measures by Core Service

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

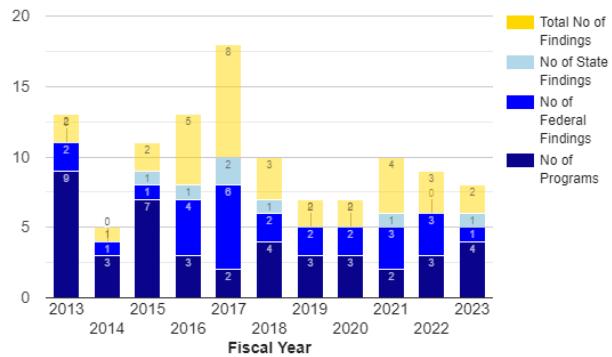
#### 1. Public School Funding



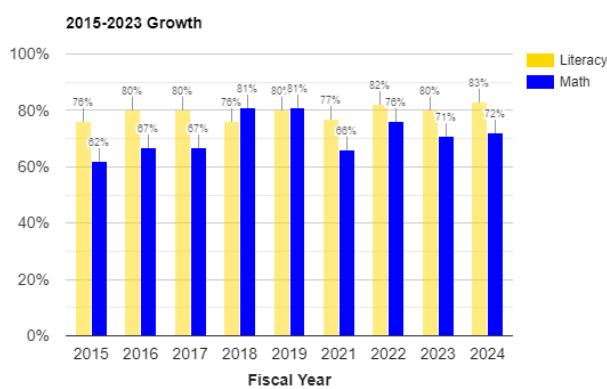
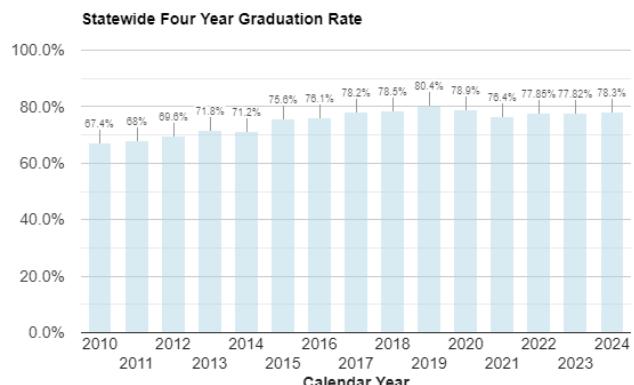
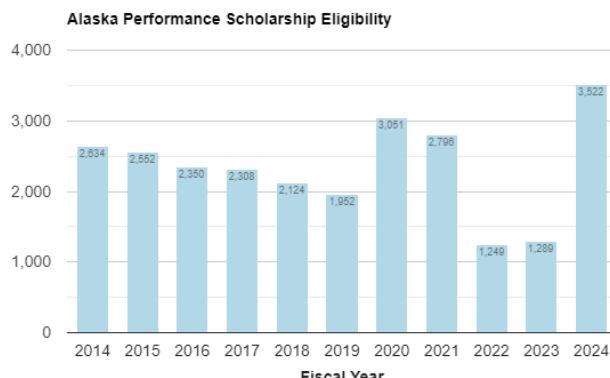
#### 2. Fiscal Accountability, Compliance and Oversight



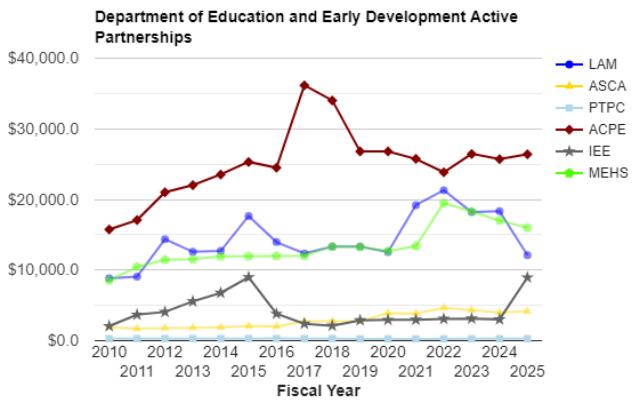
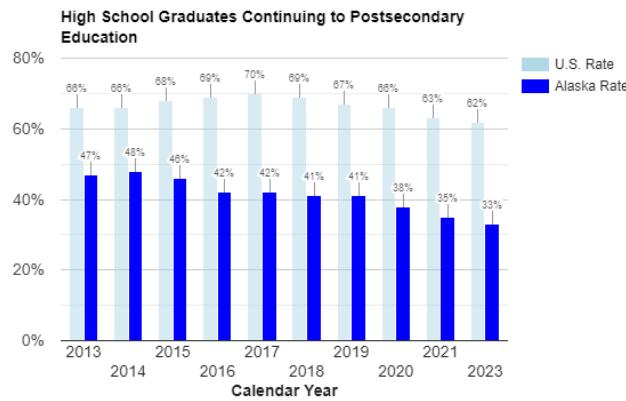
#### State and Federal Audit Findings



### 3. School Effectiveness Programs



### 4. Active Partnerships



### Major Department Accomplishments in 2025

The Department of Education and Early Development's (DEED) focus is to improve the educational outcomes of Alaska's students. The work has surrounded Alaska's Education Challenge strategic plan and the Governor of Alaska's Education Priorities.

The DEED seeks to empower families with Educational Options, Target Investments for Improved Educational Results, and Ensure Educational Rights and Safeguards are in place.

Alaska's Education Challenge Priority #1:

Supported the collaborative work for implementing the Alaska Reads Act (House Bill 114, Chapter 40, SLA 2022).

- Third year implementation of statewide mCLASS DIBELS 8 by Amplify K-3 Literacy Screening with significant student growth noted in Kindergarten and 1st grade, with noted growth in other grade levels.
- Three districts awarded 0.5 average daily membership (ADM) formula funding for their pre-kindergarten programs. Nine districts received Early Education Grants to help create or build programs that will be eligible for formula funding in the future.
- Implemented the first year of a five-year, \$50 million Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant awarded in September 2024. The grant supports 26 districts in improving literacy for children from birth through grade 12.

Alaska's Education Challenge Priority #2:

Expanded collaboration with the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DLWD), the University of Alaska System, and the DEED's Career and Technical Education (CTE) team dual credit and work-based learning initiatives.

- Funded programs that build student leadership through six Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO), giving students across Alaska more opportunities to build career leadership and knowledge.
- Expanded the demonstration project of the rootEd Alliance model, a college and career advising program for rural students in partnership with the Bristol Bay Regional CTE (BBRCTE) Program, the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DLWD), and Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI) for implementation in fiscal year (FY) 2024-FY2027.
- In partnership with Advance CTE, the national association of State CTE directors and related professionals, the DEED developed Work-Based Learning Toolkit resources to promote and develop contacts between schools/students and workforce/industry partners.

Alaska's Education Challenge Priority #1 and #3:

Continued administration of the Alaska System of Academic Readiness (AK STAR) for English language arts and Mathematics in grades 3-9, which are essential for assessing student progress.

- Continued implementing assessments and reporting assessment data: mCLASS with DIBELS 8 by Amplify, Alaska Science Assessment, the AK STAR, the Dynamic Learning Maps (DLM Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for English Language Learners (ACCESS for ELLs), Alternate ACCESS, the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), and the Alaska Developmental Profile (ADP).

Alaska's Education Challenge Priority #3:

Presented the Tribal Compacting bill, House Bill (HB) 59 to the Legislature and State Board of Education. Following the transmittal of the State Tribal Education Compact Schools Demonstration Report to the Legislature on January 29, 2024, the DEED worked in close collaboration with the five participating tribes—Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, Ketchikan Indian Community, King Island Native Community and the Village of Solomon, and Knik Tribe—to refine the framework and operational readiness for compacted schools. This work focused on developing governance structures, funding mechanisms, and student-centered models that honor tribal sovereignty while improving educational outcomes for Alaska Native students.

Alaska's Education Challenge Priority #4:

Advanced several initiatives to support teacher recruitment, retention, and professional growth in FY2025. Building on the release of the Teacher Retention and Recruitment (TRR) Playbook in August 2023 developed through the Governor's Working Group and broad stakeholder engagement, the DEED continued implementation efforts by collaborating with districts, universities, and professional organizations to promote the Playbook's practical, policy, and professional recommendations.

- Partnered with the National Center for Grow Your Own to develop a United States Department of Labor-approved Teacher Apprenticeship Framework as well as a Principal Apprenticeship Program, creating a sustainable pathway for aspiring educators to earn credentials while working in Alaska's schools.
- Modernized the teacher certification process, expanding online access for educators and district personnel to view and manage certification status. These improvements streamlined operations, reduced processing time, and enhanced transparency to better support the educator workforce.

Alaska's Education Challenge Priority #5:

The State Board of Education passed a resolution to prohibit cell phones in schools, which ultimately became law

included in HB57. The DEED launched a Reducing Chronic Absenteeism campaign by creating a website to house resources and a toolkit for districts.

## Key Department Challenges

- Expanding participation in the federal child nutrition and food commodity programs throughout Alaska while adhering to increased federal regulatory requirements.
- Supporting districts as they navigate the displacement of families and students from Typhoon Halon.
- Continuing efforts to delineate responsibilities, processes, and accountability measures within statewide consolidation initiatives.
- Continuing to support school districts navigating through changing financial impacts with a declining traditional student population with a growing homeschool/hybrid school choice need.
- Expanding school choice options.

### Mt. Edgecumbe High School (MEHS)

- Addressing ongoing preventative and general maintenance and capital improvements for an aging campus.
- Building capacity in new leadership to bring MEHS back to its instructional and operational levels since the impacts of COVID.

### Professional Teaching Practices Commission (PTPC)

- Managing internal capacity constraints to ensure the PTPC can investigate all complaints promptly and effectively, including those requiring extended investigations or hearings.
- Developing innovative strategies to expand public awareness of professional and ethical standards for educators, as well as the PTPC's role in maintaining those standards through disciplinary action.

### Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education

- Ensuring Alaskans' current and informed perceptions about career/workforce readiness to result in increased high school graduation rates—particularly among low-income residents.
- Creating a sense of urgency regarding the looming shortfall of Alaskans prepared to fill Alaska jobs as the development of Alaska's resources progresses.
- Addressing a longstanding pattern of Alaska's students' low engagement levels in postsecondary education programs, resulting in high attrition and low educational attainment.
- Addressing the growing misperception that student loans are inherently negative.

## Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2027

- Implement the Department Reading Program as outlined in House Bill 114 (Chapter 40 SLA 2022) focusing on literacy in grades K-3 to ensure continued progress in reading. Resources and strategies will be developed to address attendance with state and district partners.
- Launching the Alaska Virtual Learning Consortium (VLC) program through the eLearning platform.
- Increasing career, technical, and culturally relevant education to meet student and workforce needs by creating a clearinghouse for programs of study that can be used by all districts, providing grants to support CTE summer camps for students, as well as grants to support smaller districts to form collaboratives to increase programs offered by their districts.
- Begin work on developing pathways to build a pipeline for electricians and plumbers starting with CTE programs of study that will spring-board students to internships, pre-apprenticeships, and eventually full apprenticeships.
- Implementing recommendations and strategies outlined in the Teacher Retention and Recruitment (TRR) Playbook:
  - Develop and expand alternative pathways to certification including Teacher Registered Apprenticeship and Principal Apprenticeship to Green To Teach-a transition pathway for military personnel transitioning into the education field.
  - Partnered with the University of Alaska Institute of Social and Economic Research to develop, administer, and analyze a Teacher Exit and Stay Survey.
- Support for tribal compacting through strategic partnerships with tribal entities authorized to operate and oversee K-12 schools.

## Contact Information

**Commissioner:** Dr. Deena Bishop

**Phone:** (907) 465-2800

**E-mail:** [deed.commissioner@alaska.gov](mailto:deed.commissioner@alaska.gov)

### Administrative

**Services Director:** Dawn Hannasch

**Phone:** (907) 465-2570

**E-mail:** [dawn.hannasch@alaska.gov](mailto:dawn.hannasch@alaska.gov)