

Report to the Legislature

Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development

James Fields, Chair



House Education Committee
March 26, 2021

AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION FOR EVERY STUDENT EVERY DAY



Who We Are

https://education.alaska.gov/State_Board



James Fields, Chair
REAA Representative



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Public At-Large



Lorri Van Diest,
Second Vice Chair
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Public At-Large



No image available

Jeffrey Erickson,
Second Judicial District



LTC Jeremiah Hammill,
Military Advisor



Myriam Scott,
Student Advisor



Our Mission, Vision, and Purpose

OUR MISSION

- › An excellent education for every student every day.

OUR VISION

- › 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

OUR PURPOSE

- › DEED exists to provide **information**, **resources**, and **leadership** to support an excellent education for every student every day.

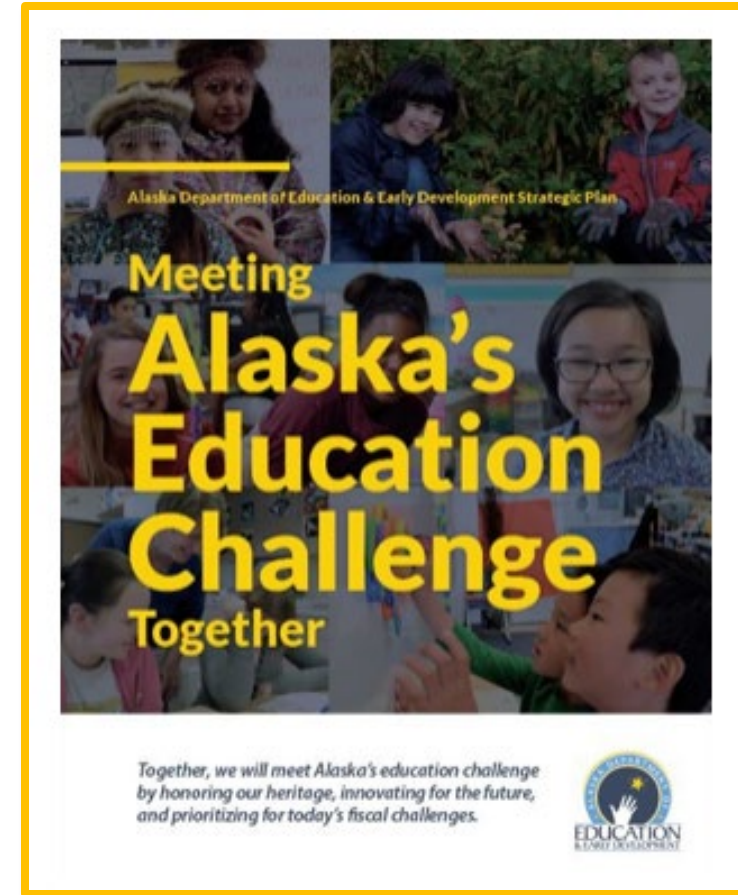




Our Strategic Priorities: Alaska's Education Challenge

Five Shared 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



education.alaska.gov/akedchallenge



Board Action Highlights

- › Adopted emergency regulation changes to ensure funding to eligible school districts under Senate Bill 74 to improve Internet services under the School Broadband Assistance Grant program.
- › Adopted regulation changes to allow military training with the Alaska Army National Guard to count for high school credit and be available to all eligible high school students in Alaska.
- › Adopted amendments to update the state's school library standards.
- › Repealed and replaced regulations to allow the issuance of emergency administrative certificates and some emergency teacher certificates.



DEED Significant Steps – School Health & Safety

Alaska Project AWARE Grant

- › DEED was awarded a five-year, \$9.1 million Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education) grant from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
- › The grant will assist the state in improving mental health by growing mental health literacy, reducing mental health stigma, strengthening early identification and intervention for student mental health conditions, as well as providing more robust services for students who are experiencing severe mental health issues.

Transforming Schools Toolkit

- › DEED, in collaboration with the Association of Alaska School Boards (AASB), launched a new trauma-engaged resource—a toolkit to complement the Transforming Schools Trauma Framework completed last year. The toolkit is a supplemental and highly practical online resource to assist Alaska schools becoming fully trauma engaged and practicing. The toolkit is intended for districts to use with staff.

Alaska Safe Children's Act Statewide Curriculum

- › The Health and Safety Unit completed construction of a state authored student training to support districts with the implementation of the Alaska Safe Children's Act in grades 7-12. The curriculum is designed to help prevent childhood sexual abuse and teen dating abuse.



DEED Significant Steps – Increased Focus on Third Grade Reading Proficiency

- › DEED received a \$20.7 million five-year Comprehensive Literacy State Develop (CLSD) grant from the U.S. Department of Education to expand the state's efforts to improve literacy skills for all students.
 - Sixteen district projects were selected for funding, involving students from birth through grade 12 in 45 different schools.
 - Subgrant awards were finalized and announced on January 17, 2020.
- › Project highlights include professional development in effective reading instruction for teachers, hiring reading specialists, incorporating new and innovative reading instruction, and more.
 - Five out of the 16 district projects focus on the K-5 grade span, specifically targeting students reading at grade level by third grade.



Contact Information

› https://education.alaska.gov/state_board/memlist

› Erin Hardin, Legislative Liaison

erin.hardin@alaska.gov

(907) 465-2803