

# Introduction to 'DEED'

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Dr. Michael Johnson, Commissioner



Senate Education Committee  
January 29, 2021

**AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION FOR EVERY STUDENT EVERY DAY**



# Today's Agenda

- › Introduction and Overview of DEED
- › COVID-19 Update: School Guidance and Support
- › Overview of Alaska Student Performance
- › Questions for Discussion



# Alaska Constitution – Public Education

## ARTICLE VII, SECTION 1

- › The legislature shall by general law establish and maintain a system of public schools open to all children of the State, and may provide for other public educational institutions. Schools and institutions so established shall be free from sectarian control. No money shall be paid from public funds for the direct benefit of any religious or other private educational institution.



# Our Mission & Vision

## 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.





# Oversight of Public Schools

- › Alaska is considered a ‘local control’ state
  - Each school district is governed by a regional or locally-elected school board and is responsible to provide for “an educational program for each school age child who is enrolled in or a resident of the district” (AS 14.08.111, AS 14.14.090)
- › DEED has authority to exercise ‘general supervision’ (AS 14.07.020)
- › Local and regional school boards have been given broad discretionary power by the Legislature
  - Local and regional school boards are responsible for determining and adopting policies not in conflict with other law that provide for the development and implementation of individual school budgets, negotiated agreements, instructional programs, activities, services, or practices that the school board determines will promote education or effective management and operation of the school district (AS 14.08.101, AS 14.08.111, AS 14.14.060, AS 14.14.090)

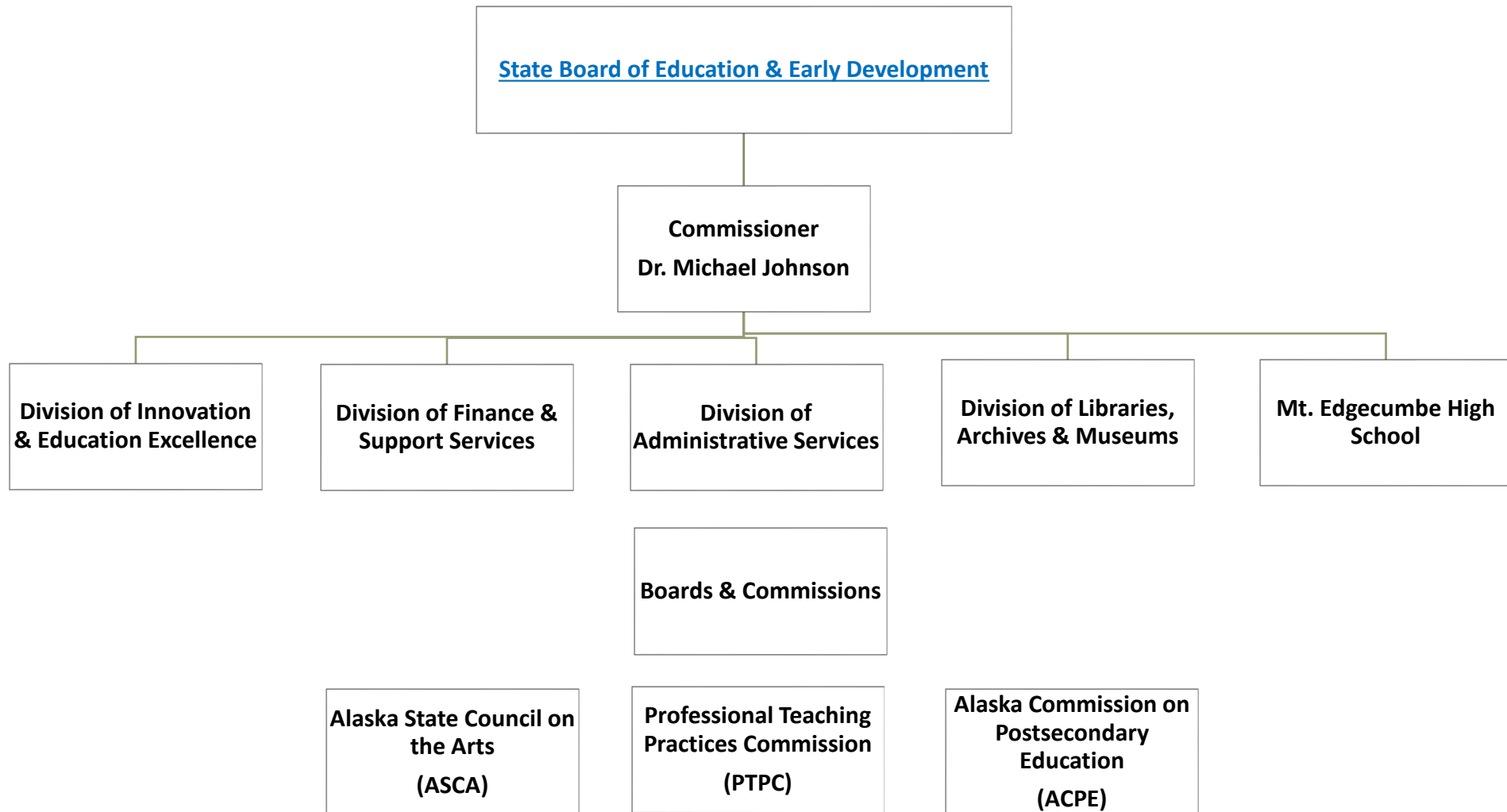


# Core Services & Functions

- › Distribute public school funding
  - *Component/Program: Foundation; Pupil Transportation, Boarding Home Grants, Special Schools, etc.*
- › Provide fiscal accountability, compliance, and oversight
  - *Component/Program: Executive Admin, Admin Services, IT, School Finance & Facilities, Child Nutrition, Teacher Certification, etc.*
- › Develop, implement, and maintain school effectiveness programs
  - *Component/Program: State System of Support, Pre-K Grants, Alaska Performance Scholarship, etc.*
- › Maintain active partnerships for Pre-K through age 20 and lifelong learning
  - *Component/Program: Early Learning Coordination, Alaska State Council on the Arts, Mt. Edgecumbe High School, Library Operations, Broadband Assistance Grants, etc.*



# Organizational Chart



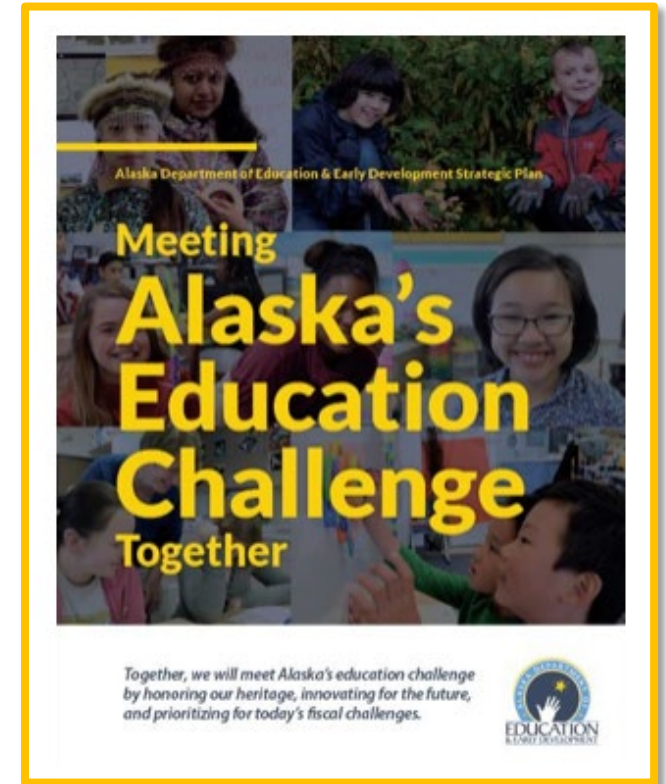




# Our Strategic Priorities: Alaska's Education Challenge

## 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](https://education.alaska.gov/akedchallenge)



# Legislative Resources

## SCHOOL FINANCE & FACILITIES

[education.alaska.gov/schoolfinance](https://education.alaska.gov/schoolfinance)

[education.alaska.gov/facilities](https://education.alaska.gov/facilities)

- › District Budgets
  - [Annual Operating Fund Reports](#)
- › Foundation Funding Formula
  - [Public School Funding Program Overview](#)
  - Annual Foundation Reports
  - [FY2021 Student Count Period and Hold Harmless Provision White Paper](#)
- › Capital Improvement Projects
  - [Annual Priority Lists](#)

*\*Available to provide foundation formula and education funding trainings*

## EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS

[education.alaska.gov/earlylearning](https://education.alaska.gov/earlylearning)

[education.alaska.gov/headstart](https://education.alaska.gov/headstart)

- › Early Learning Coordination
  - Parents as Teachers
  - Best Beginnings
  - Head Start & Early Head Start Grants
    - › [FY2021 State Equitable Funding Formula White Paper](#)
- › Pre-Kindergarten Grants



# Constituent Resources

## TEACHER CERTIFICATION

[education.alaska.gov/teachercertification](http://education.alaska.gov/teachercertification)

Direct Line: (907) 465-2831

- › Emergency Certification
- › Preparation Programs & Basic Competency Exams
- › Mandatory Trainings
  - [eLearning online course catalog](#)

## SCHOOL DATA & INFORMATION

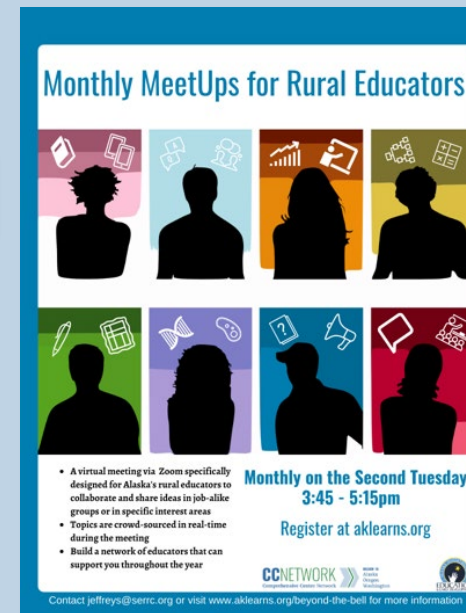
[education.alaska.gov/compass](http://education.alaska.gov/compass)

- › The Compass: A Guide to Alaska's Schools
  - Student performance data
  - Per pupil spending
  - School report card
  - Contact information
  - School comparison tool
  - Explore school options guide

**Guiding principle:**  
*Teaching, learning, and activity are the constants. COVID-19 is the variable.*

- 
- ALASKA SMART START 2020

**aklearns.org**





**Student & Family**
**Teaching & Learning**
**Leaders**
**Events**




# BEYOND THE BELL

What is Beyond the Bell? Beyond the Bell is a collection of after school opportunities that supports the professional learning of educators throughout the school. All sessions will begin at 3:30pm or later, offering a variety of opportunities for educators to engage in communities of practice around high demand topics.

### Webinar Series on the Science Standards for Alaska

The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development is pleased to announce a series of webinars about the Science Standards for Alaska (SSAs). Join educators from across the state to learn more about the new science standards.

[Learn More](#)

### Science Makers Workshop

Collaborate with Alaskan educators in creating science lessons aligned to the Science Standards for Alaska for a shared bank of resources guided by Page Keeley and Joyce Tagel, authors of Science Curriculum Topic Study

3:45-5:15pm AKST Thursdays, Feb. 11, 18, 25, Mar. 4, 11. Course credit optional.

[Learn More](#)

### Professional Book Studies

Join one of our Professional Book Studies. Register by Jan. 20 to get a free print book.

Starting Feb. 9 3:45-5:15pm AKST

Course credit optional.

[Learn More](#)

### Teaching Early Literacy Remotely

How do you teach a K-3 student to read remotely? Learn from the experts at REL Northwest.

January 11 through March 1.

3:45 - 5:15pm AKST

UAA Course Credit available.

[Learn More](#)

### AKRISE - A Network of Alaska's Rural Teachers

Join a network to collaborate with rural teachers. Two multi-day convenings held per year.

Monthly Meetings Every 2nd Tuesday from 3:45 - 5:15pm

[Learn More](#)

### Monthly MeetUps for Rural Educators

Join rural teachers, hear from resident experts, connect, collaborate and share ideas.

Monthly, Every 2nd Tuesday from 3:45 - 5:15pm

[Learn More / Register](#)

### Caregiver COVID Schooling

Do you just find yourself as a parent educator during COVID? The Caregiver COVID Schooling ECHO is designed to help parents and caregivers manage their children's education during this time.

[Learn More](#)
[Register](#)

### Alaska Education Network- Echo Sessions

A statewide initiative focused on uniting Alaskan educational leaders with the intention of building a support network to reduce isolation while strengthening the link between leadership and student achievement. **Info Flyer**

[Join Today](#)
[Learn More](#)

### Google Educators Group of Alaska

Face via to face meet-ups and online activities. CEEs provide a way for educators who are passionate about education and technology to meet like minded people and share, learn, and collaborate together.

[Learn More](#)



# COVID-19 Update: School Guidance and Support

- › Alaska Statewide Virtual System
  - 36 districts requested access to the AKSVS platform and content to support a variety of teaching and learning delivery models this school year
- › Canvas – AK Learns Commons
  - Statewide license for every teacher and student in the state, provides access to an online shared warehouse of rich K-12 course content
- › 2020-2021 School Enrollment Counts
- › CARES Act & CRRSA Act Funding
  - CARES Act 'ESSER I' Fund: \$34.5M to school districts
  - CRRSA Act 'ESSER II' Fund: \$143.7M to school districts





# How are Alaska's students performing?



[www.education.alaska.gov/compass](http://www.education.alaska.gov/compass)



# Who are Alaska's students attending K-12 public schools?



- › In the 2019-2020 school year, 128,589 K-12 students were enrolled at 503 public schools in 54 school districts across the state.
- › Of those students, 19,473 are special education students (ages 3-21).
- › 47% of students are White, 21% are Alaska Native, 12% identify as Two or More Races, 7% are Hispanic, 6% are Asian, 3% are Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, 3% are Black, and 1% are American Indian.



# NAEP 2019 Snapshot – Alaska Proficiency

## National Assessment of Educational Progress

### GRADE 4 | READING | 2019

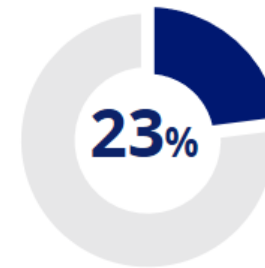
At or above *Proficient*



The percentage of students in Alaska who performed at or above the NAEP Proficient level was 25 percent in 2019. This percentage was smaller than that in 2017 (28 percent) and was not significantly different from that in 2003 (28 percent).

### GRADE 8 | READING | 2019

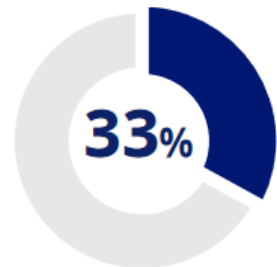
At or above *Proficient*



The percentage of students in Alaska who performed at or above the NAEP Proficient level was 23 percent in 2019. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2017 (26 percent) and in 2003 (27 percent).

### GRADE 4 | MATHEMATICS | 2019

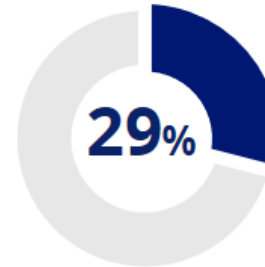
At or above *Proficient*



The percentage of students in Alaska who performed at or above the NAEP Proficient level was 33 percent in 2019. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2017 (32 percent) and in 2003 (30 percent).

### GRADE 8 | MATHEMATICS | 2019

At or above *Proficient*



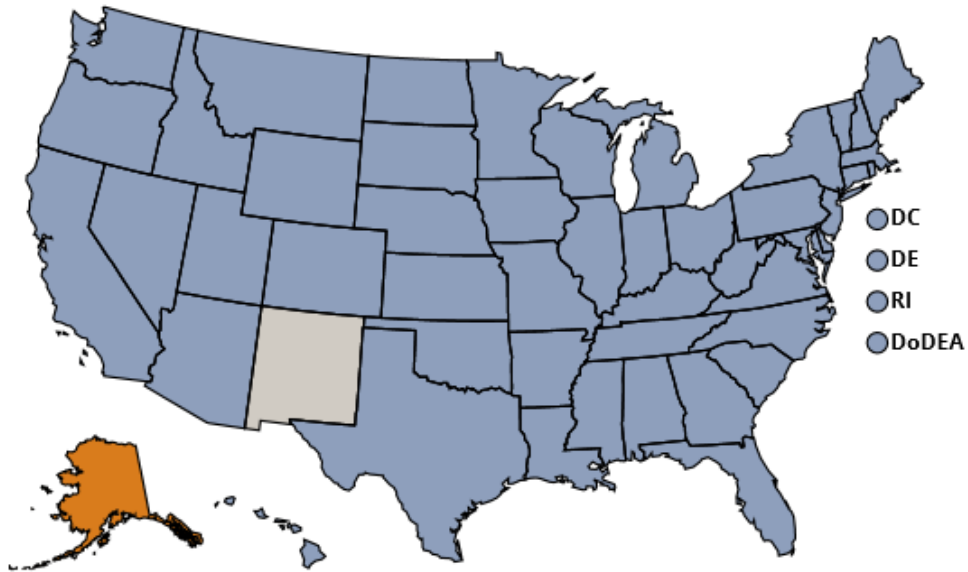
The percentage of students in Alaska who performed at or above the NAEP Proficient level was 29 percent in 2019. This percentage was not significantly different from that in 2017 (29 percent) and in 2003 (30 percent).





# NAEP 2019 – Alaska vs. Nation Grade 4 Reading

Compare the Average Score in 2019 to Other States/  
Jurisdictions

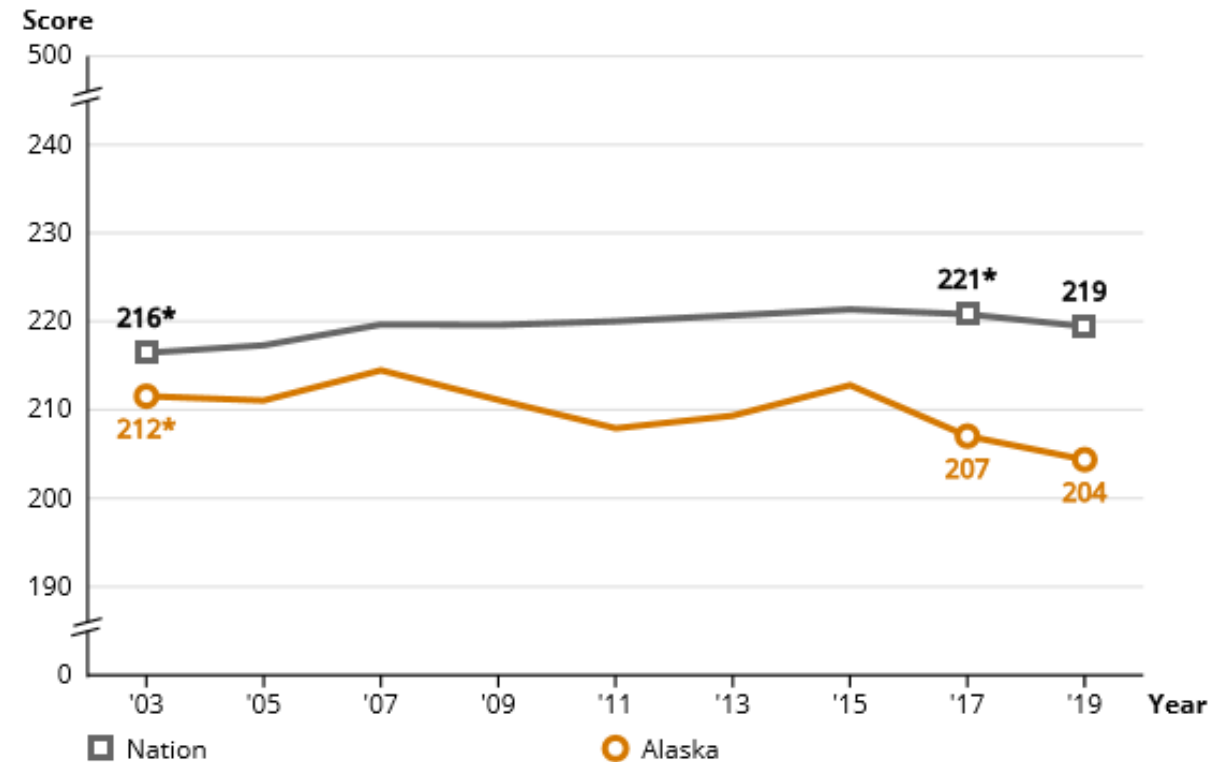


In 2019, the average score in Alaska (204) was

- lower than those in 50 states/jurisdictions
- higher than those in 0 states/jurisdictions
- not significantly different from those in 1 state/jurisdiction

DoDEA = Department of Defense Education Activity (overseas and domestic schools)

Average Scores for State/Jurisdiction and Nation

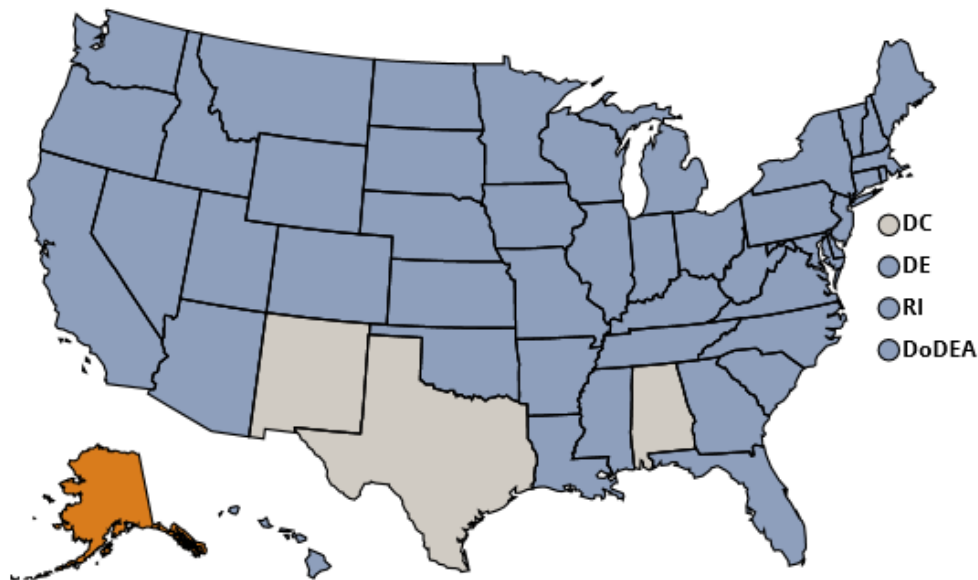


\* Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from 2019. Significance tests were performed using unrounded numbers.



# NAEP 2019 – Alaska vs. Nation Grade 8 Reading

## Compare the Average Score in 2019 to Other States/ Jurisdictions

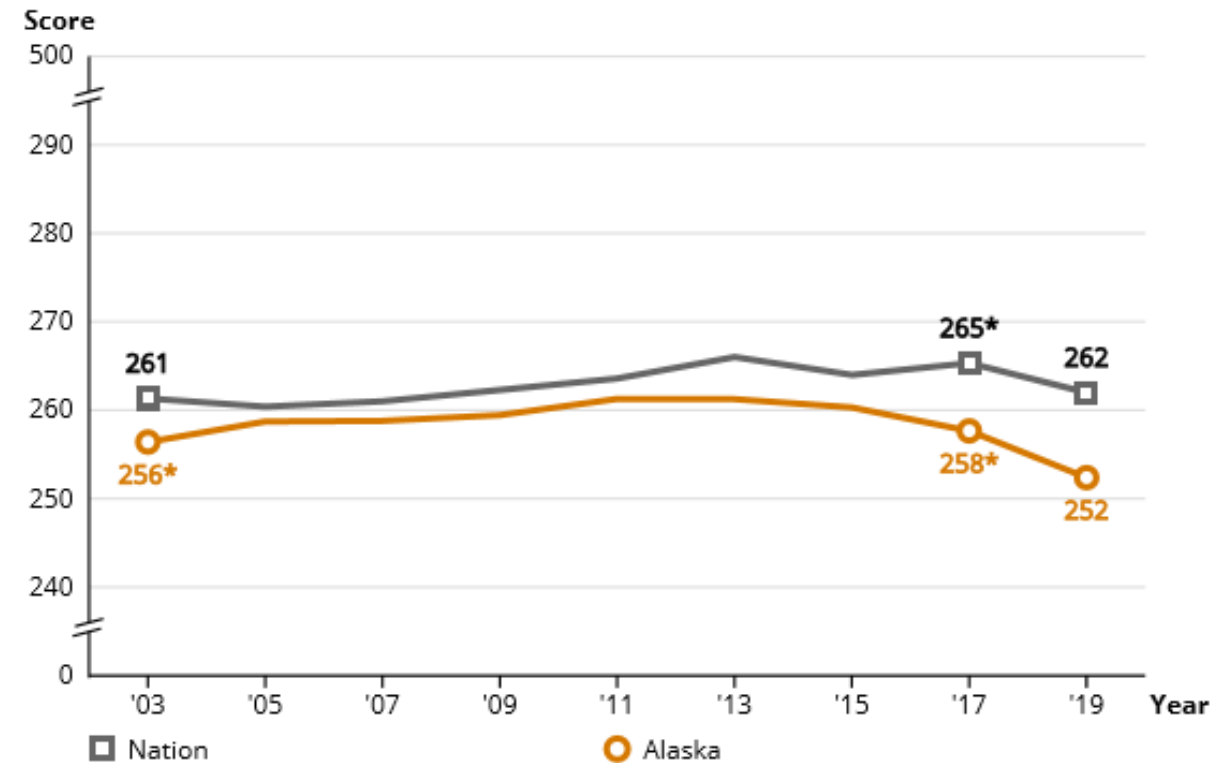


In 2019, the average score in Alaska (252) was

- lower than those in 47 states/jurisdictions
- higher than those in 0 states/jurisdictions
- not significantly different from those in 4 states/jurisdictions

DoDEA = Department of Defense Education Activity (overseas and domestic schools)

## Average Scores for State/Jurisdiction and Nation

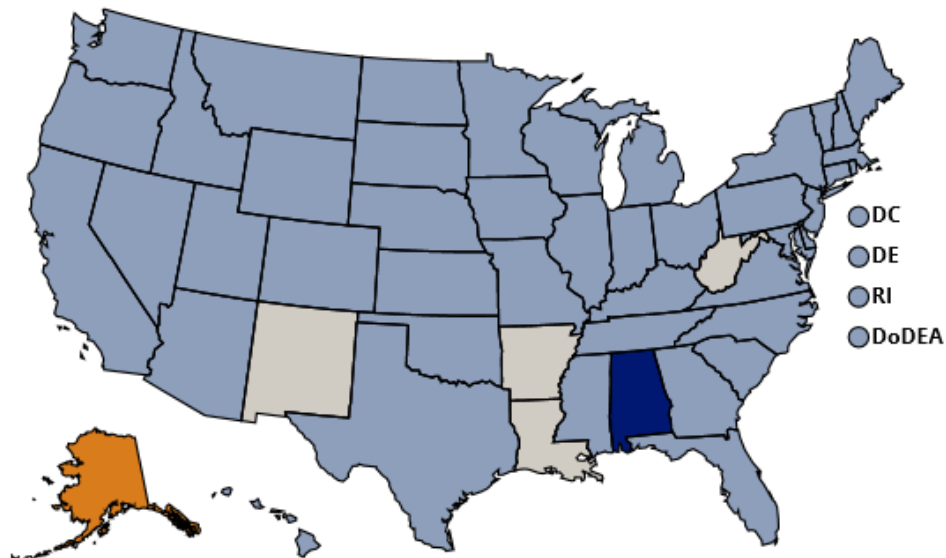


\* Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from 2019. Significance tests were performed using unrounded numbers.



# NAEP 2019 – Alaska vs. Nation Grade 4 Math

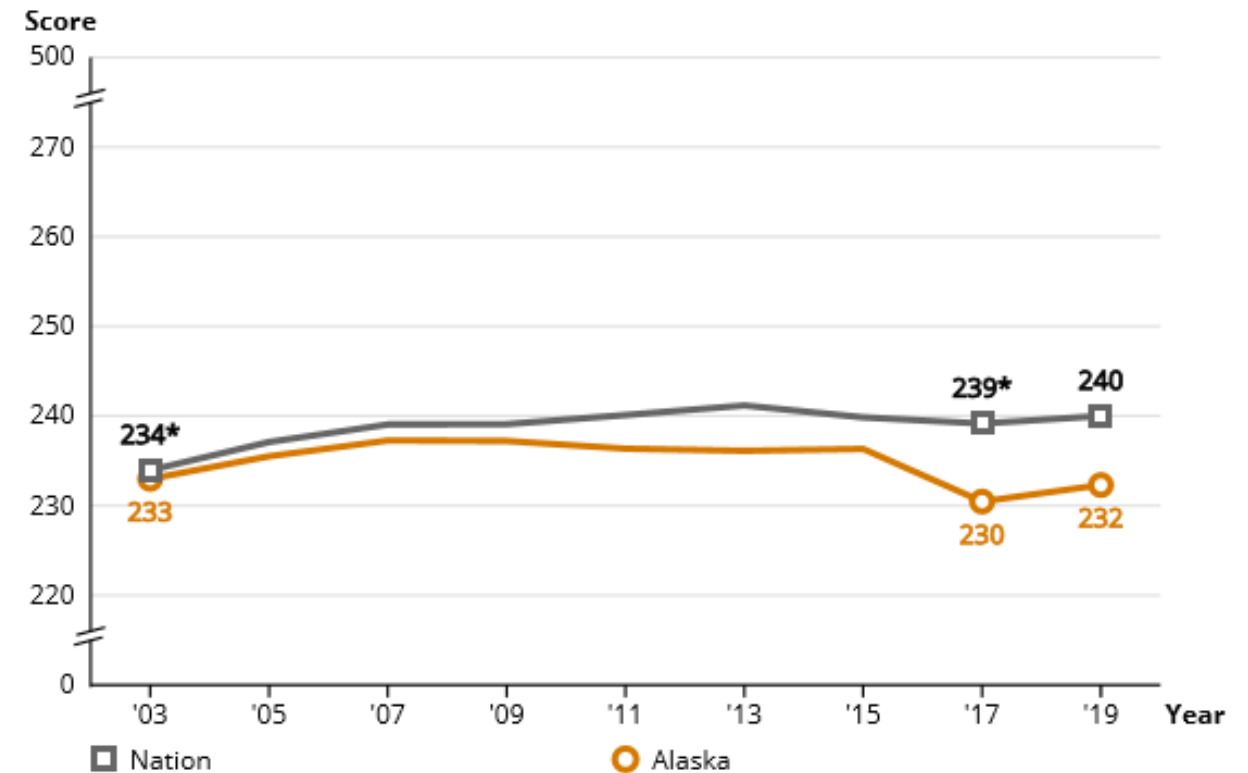
## Compare the Average Score in 2019 to Other States/ Jurisdictions



In 2019, the average score in Alaska (232) was  
■ lower than those in 46 states/jurisdictions  
■ higher than those in 1 state/jurisdiction  
■ not significantly different from those in 4 states/jurisdictions

DoDEA = Department of Defense Education Activity (overseas and domestic schools)  
NOTE: Puerto Rico was not included in the comparison results.

## Average Scores for State/Jurisdiction and Nation

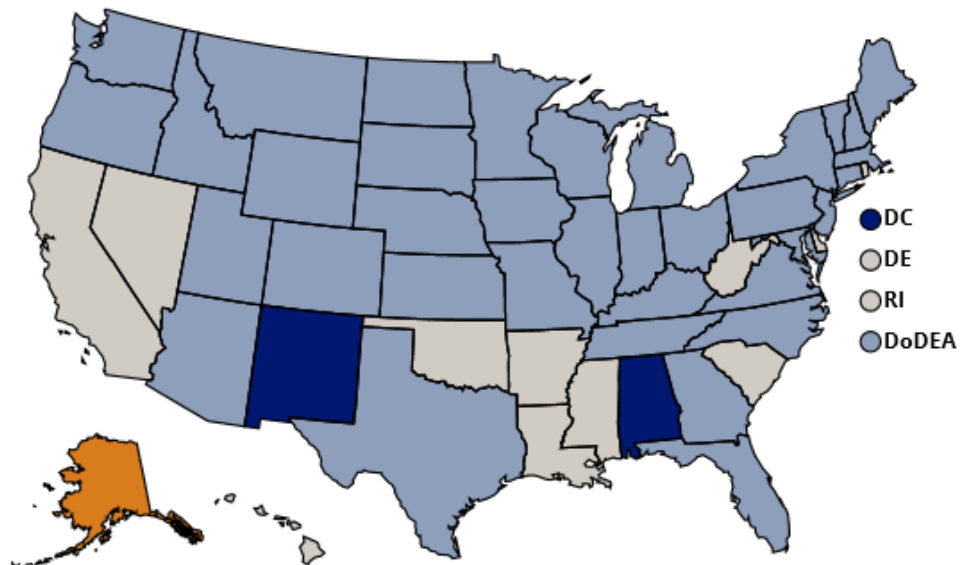


\* Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from 2019. Significance tests were performed using unrounded numbers.



# NAEP 2019 – Alaska vs. Nation Grade 8 Math

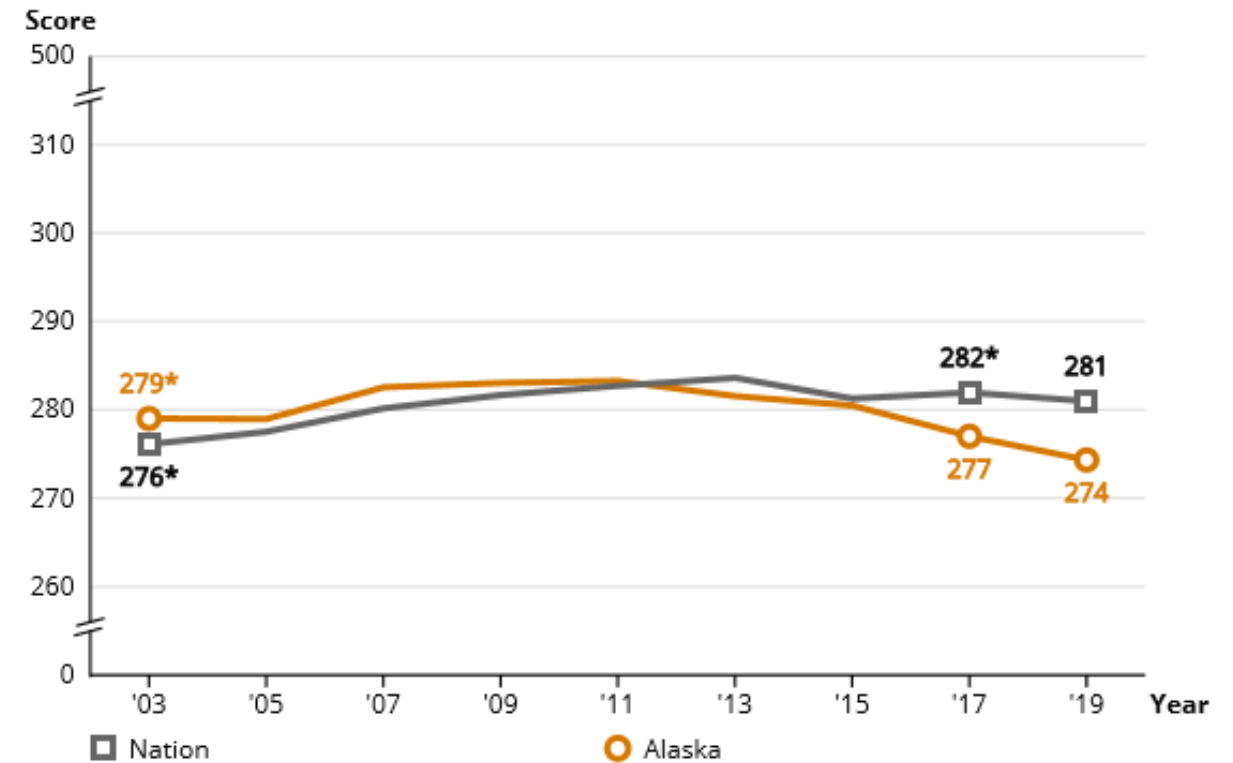
## Compare the Average Score in 2019 to Other States/ Jurisdictions



In 2019, the average score in Alaska (274) was  
■ lower than those in 37 states/jurisdictions  
■ higher than those in 3 states/jurisdictions  
■ not significantly different from those in 11 states/jurisdictions

DoDEA = Department of Defense Education Activity (overseas and domestic schools)  
NOTE: Puerto Rico was not included in the comparison results.

## Average Scores for State/Jurisdiction and Nation



\* Significantly different ( $p < .05$ ) from 2019. Significance tests were performed using unrounded numbers.



# PEAKS 2019 Summative Assessment

## Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools

### All Grades

	Advanced/Proficient		Below/Far Below Proficient				
Subgroup	Count	Percentage <sup>1</sup>	Count	Percentage <sup>1</sup>	Enrollment	Participation Rate	Group
English Language Arts	24,554	39.20%	38,090	60.80%	68,826	90.84%	<a href="#">View</a>
Mathematics	22,367	35.72%	40,258	64.28%	68,921	90.80%	<a href="#">View</a>

### All Grades

	Advanced/Proficient		Below/Far Below Proficient				
Subgroup	Count	Percentage <sup>1</sup>	Count	Percentage <sup>1</sup>	Enrollment	Participation Rate	Group
Science	11,206	44.65%	13,892	55.35%	28,547	87.74%	<a href="#">View</a>



# PEAKS 2019 Summative Assessment

## Performance Evaluation for Alaska's Schools

### 4th Grade

	Advanced/Proficient		Below/Far Below Proficient				
Subgroup	Count	Percentage <sup>1</sup>	Count	Percentage <sup>1</sup>	Enrollment	Participation Rate	Group
English Language Arts	3,742	39.66%	5,693	60.34%	10,183	92.48%	<a href="#">View</a>
Mathematics	4,258	45.10%	5,184	54.90%	10,195	92.52%	<a href="#">View</a>

### 8th Grade

	Advanced/Proficient		Below/Far Below Proficient				
Subgroup	Count	Percentage <sup>1</sup>	Count	Percentage <sup>1</sup>	Enrollment	Participation Rate	Group
English Language Arts	3,029	35.81%	5,429	64.19%	9,429	89.52%	<a href="#">View</a>
Mathematics	2,320	27.43%	6,137	72.57%	9,448	89.51%	<a href="#">View</a>



*“Alaska’s 2019 NAEP results confirm what we learned from our 2019 PEAKS results, our statewide summative assessment – **a large achievement gap continues to exist** and the work to improve outcomes for all students must continue.*

*For the second time in a row, Alaska has ranked last out of all 50 states in grade 4 reading. Our dissatisfaction with these results must drive us to **abandon the status quo and reach for the kind of innovation our students need**. Our number one policy priority in the department is to support all students to read at grade level by the end of third grade.”*

– Commissioner Johnson, October 2019





## Questions for Discussion

- › How can we confront our education challenges collectively?
- › How can we resource an excellent education today without jeopardizing our responsibility to Alaska's future students?
- › How can we make funding work better for students?
- › How can we rebuild from COVID-19 to be more effective for our students?
- › How can we provide more transparency as an education system?





## Contact Information

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## InDEED: Connect With Us

- › [education.alaska.gov](http://education.alaska.gov)
- › Main Line: (907) 465-2800
- › Teacher Certification: (907) 465-2831
- › @AlaskaDEED on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and Vimeo