

# DEED Update: Progress on our Shared Priorities

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development  
Dr. Michael Johnson, Commissioner



Senate Education Committee  
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AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION FOR EVERY STUDENT EVERY DAY



# 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.

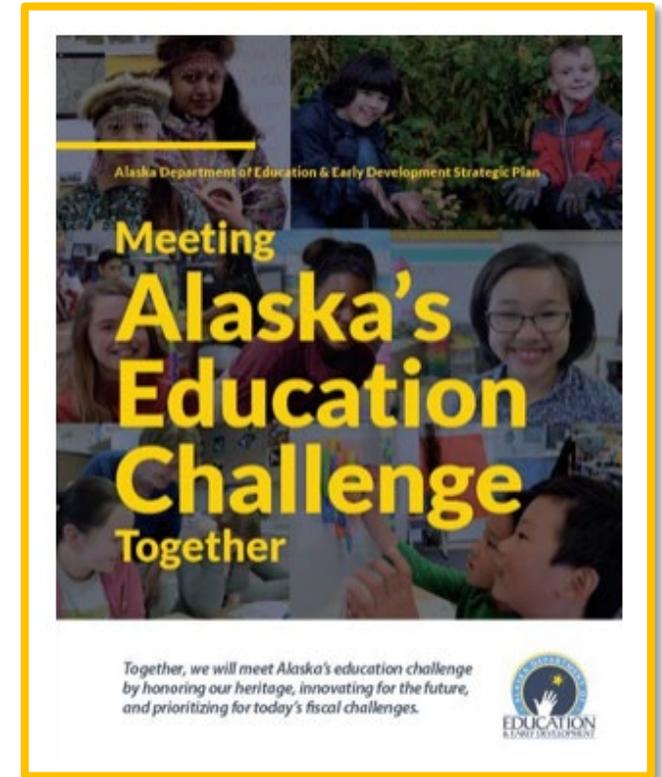




# Our Strategic Priorities: Alaska's Education Challenge

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



# 1. Reading Proficiency by Third Grade

- › Alaska School District K-3 Reading Survey Report to the Legislature
- › Alaska Reading Playbook
- › Alaska Literacy Blueprint update underway
- › In December 2021, DEED's Special Education team released a Dyslexia training eLearning module
- › *Upcoming!* Science of Reading Symposium



## 2. Increase CTE and Culturally-Relevant Education

- › Development of a statewide clearinghouse of CTE resources in partnership with the Alaska Association for Career and Technical Education (AK ACTE)
- › Digital Badging Project with Cook Inlet Tribal Council
- › Kusilvak Career Academy Drivers Education Program, Lower Yukon School District
- › Pathways Program Tok - Keith William Irons Youth Center, Alaska Gateway School District
- › NACTEC Truck Driving Simulator, Bering Strait School District



### 3. Closing the Achievement Gap

- › \$1 million grant to the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) to scope tribal compacting of education in Alaska.
- › \$1 million grant to Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) to identify strategies for developing culturally relevant curriculum, programs, and school partnerships for Alaska Native and American Indian students.
- › Partnership with NWEA to implement a balanced statewide assessment that better reflects learning throughout the school year and helps educators target instruction to students' individual needs.
- › DEED continues to work on our Successful School Improvement Processes, supporting districts designated as Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) and Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI).
- › The State Board issued a request for public comment on proposed regulations regarding the term “world language” to include Alaska Native languages. Including them in the world languages definition and providing additional options to take these courses will create more opportunity for students who are working to meet Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) requirements, graduation requirements, and college entrance requirements with an Alaska Native language.



## 4. Teacher Recruitment and Retention

- › In April 2021, the Governor’s Teacher Retention and Recruitment (TRR) Working Group released its TRR Action Plan and Survey Results Report
- › Dr. Barbara Adams will continue leading the TRR Implementation and Management
  - Next steps will center around solutions within the six areas identified in the TRR Action Plan
- › The State Board issued a request for public comment on proposed changes to teacher certification regulations
  - The proposed changes address two of the six essential areas identified by the TRR Working Group including expanding certification pathways, simplifying qualifications, and streamlining the certification process.



## 5. Safety and Well-Being

- › Bree's Law Education: Alaska Safe Children's Act state-authored curriculum
- › Behavioral Health in Schools
- › Transforming Schools: A Framework for Trauma-Engaged Practice in Alaska
- › COVID-19 Response & Partnership with DHSS



## Future Discussion Topics

- › 2021-2022 School Enrollment Counts
- › COVID-19 Federal Relief Funding
- › System of School Improvement Updates
- › State Board of Education March meeting
- › Deeper dives into today's topics
- › Civics Education\*



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