



Early Learning Coordination

Early Learning Coordination is made up of the following components:

Grant	Funding Amount
Head Start and Early Head Start All federally funded Head Start programs in Alaska currently receive state grant funds. The annual state grant award is a straight percentage based upon each program's federal award.	\$ 6,853,000
Parents as Teachers Parents as Teachers is a collaboration with the Department of Health & Social Services Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program that provides support for early learners (birth to 5) by empowering caregivers through personal and group visits. Grants are awarded through a competitive application process.	\$474,700
Best Beginnings Best Beginnings is a public-private partnership that mobilizes people and resources to ensure all Alaska children begin school ready to succeed.	\$320,000

Pre-Kindergarten Grants

Pre-Kindergarten Grants is made up of the following components:

Grant	Funding Amount
Pre-Kindergarten Grants Pre-kindergarten grants support voluntary, comprehensive, school district-based preschool programs for four- and five-year old children that are based on the guiding principles and goals set forth in the Alaska Early Learning Guidelines.	\$3,200,000

Program Information

Head Start Grants

Head Start is a federal program that promotes school readiness of children ages birth to five from low-income families by supporting the development of the whole child through comprehensive services such as health, nutrition, and parent involvement. Head Start programs receive 80% of their funding from federal resources and are required to provide a 20% non-federal share. The state of Alaska has been providing state funding through DEED towards this non-federal share requirement since 2001.

Included at the end of this document is a historical overview of State Head Start allocations, including federal allocation information as it relates to the equitable funding formula.

Parents as Teachers

The purpose of Parents as Teachers (PAT) is to offer children and their parents/caregivers home-based services during the early years of child development. PAT offers parents and caregivers research-based information on how children grow and develop; types of activities and toys that will foster learning and nurture development; methods of positive discipline; new techniques for problem solving; realistic expectations of child behavior; and attitudes that will raise children's self-esteem.

The PAT philosophy is guided by the following principles:

- Parents are their children's first and most influential teachers.
- The early years of a child's life are critical for optimal development and provide the foundation for success in school and life.



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- Established and emerging research should be the foundation of parent education and family support curricula, training, materials, and services.
- All young children and their families deserve the same opportunities to succeed, regardless of any demographic, geographic, or economic considerations.
- An understanding and appreciation of the history and traditions of diverse cultures is essential in serving families.

Grantee	Locations	Children Served 7/1/2021 - 12/01/2021	State Award
Alaska Family Services	Mat-Su Valley	8	\$60,000
Kid's Corps	Anchorage	11	\$120,000
RurAL CAP	Haines and Kodiak	26	\$145,000
SEA-AEYC	Juneau	98	\$109,000
Grantee Training	All		\$700
DHSS (Administrative)			\$40,000
Total:		164	\$474,700

Since FY2018, DHSS Public Health has provided assistance for the PAT program through a reimbursable services agreement with DEED.

Best Beginnings

Best Beginnings' mission is to mobilize people and resources to ensure all Alaska children begin school ready to succeed. Through a partnership between DEED and Best Beginnings, Best Beginnings provides activities called for in **Sec.**

14.03.072. Early literacy information. (b) In partnership with local media outlets, the department shall create and implement a communications campaign to educate parents and guardians about the importance of early literacy. The campaign shall include an Internet website that provides access to current research on early literacy, book recommendations, and vocabulary-building exercises.

As of December 1, 2021, Best Beginnings has accomplished the following:

- 28 new Imagination Library communities
 - 1 new affiliate serving Kiana
 - 27 communities added to the North Star affiliate through a funding partnership with Tanana Chiefs Conference
- Imagination Library Books:
 - 17,062 children aged 0-5 years received books
 - 138 communities with 30 affiliates served
 - 33% of eligible Alaskan children are enrolled in Imagination Library
 - 80,773 free books were mailed
- 8,510 people received the monthly Best Beginnings newsletter
- 12,871 people received the weekly parent e-newsletter
- 4 Little Learners Camps were held virtually with 324 attendees
- Parent comments after accessing Best Beginnings resources:
 - "This is so cool! Did not expect it to be so amazing. The books are already a hit! My daughter is part Athabaskan so the Alaska Native theme is appreciated!"
 - "As a result of participating in Imagination Library, I have learned that reading helps children learn at all ages. It especially helps us parents bond with our children and it helps our children learn and have fun at the same time. It teaches us all to be curious and work on our vocabulary together."



Pre-Kindergarten Grants

FY2022 is the second year of a three-year cohort of state pre-kindergarten grants. Any Alaskan public school district was eligible to apply for the FY2021-2023 Alaska Pre-Elementary Grant with the purpose of planning for, beginning implementation of, or supporting existing programs that meet Alaska's Pre-Elementary Goals. Pre-Elementary Programs include children ages 3-5 years and 5-year-old children who missed the age cut-off date for kindergarten enrollment. Through a competitive application process, 17 school districts were awarded funds. The total allocation for FY2022 was \$3.2 million. Grantees projected student enrollment at the beginning of the school year to include 714 students. This is a two percent (2%) increase in enrollment from FY2021.

School District	Projected Number of Students	FY2022 Funding
Alaska Gateway School District	44	\$149,718
Aleutians East Borough School District	16	\$150,000
Anchorage School District	85	\$810,165
Bristol Bay Borough School District	20	\$149,879
Chatham School District	10	\$149,269
Chugach School District	56	\$150,000
Fairbanks North Star Borough School District	120	\$150,000
Hydaburg City School District	7	\$149,480
Juneau Borough School District	60	\$150,000
Kake City School District	11	\$149,926
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District	7	\$142,544
Kodiak Island Borough School District	157	\$150,000
Lower Kuskokwim School District	21	\$150,000
Sitka School District	2	\$150,000
Southeast Island School District	13	\$149,019
Southwest Region School District	72	\$150,000
Yukon-Koyukuk School District	13	\$150,000
Total	714	\$3,200,000

Alaska Pre-Elementary Program Goals and Activities

Goal 1	Promote school readiness on positive outcomes in all areas of child development addressed in the <i>Alaska Early Learning Guidelines</i> , build strong early childhood literacy by incorporating the appropriate areas of the <i>Alaska Literacy Blueprint</i> , and align with the goals of their districts.
Goal 2	Identify and provide support for Alaska's children who are most in need of support.
Goal 3	Maximize parental choice and continuity of care, by encouraging community-based collaboration from a mixed delivery system of early learning support which includes, state, federally funded, private, and non-profit early learning environments.
Goal 4	Support the use of child reliable and valid assessment systems and tools to ensure programs are effectively measuring children's progress across all the domains in the <i>Alaska Early Learning Guidelines</i> and using assessment information to inform practice and inform policy decisions.
Goal 5	Support the transition of pre-elementary children to kindergarten through partnership and strong school and family relationships. Programs will build ongoing, long lasting, trusting relationships with parents, including them in decision making concerning curriculum and other aspects of their child's education and development.
Goal 6	Ensure that early childhood professionals have excellent preparation, ongoing professional development, and compensation commensurate with their qualifications and experience to provide the most effective teacher/child interactions.



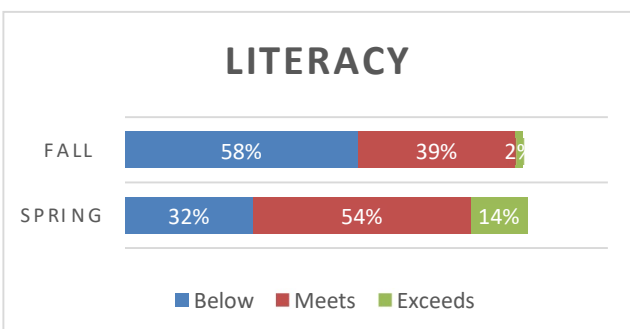
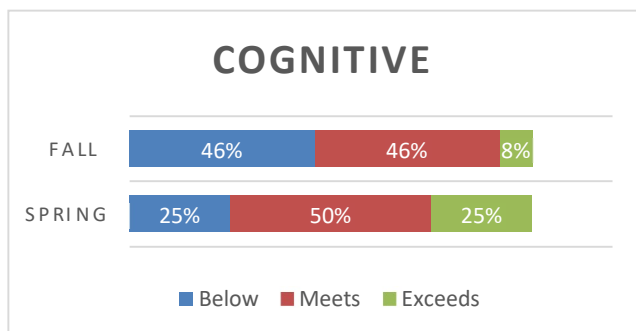
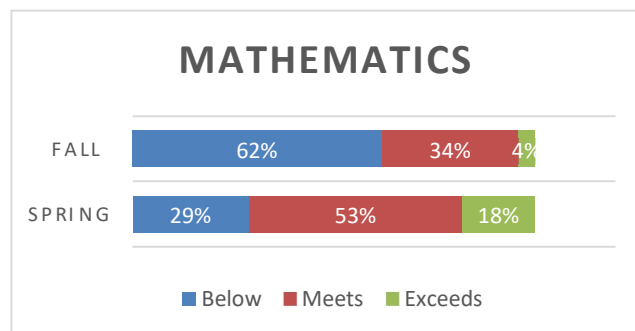
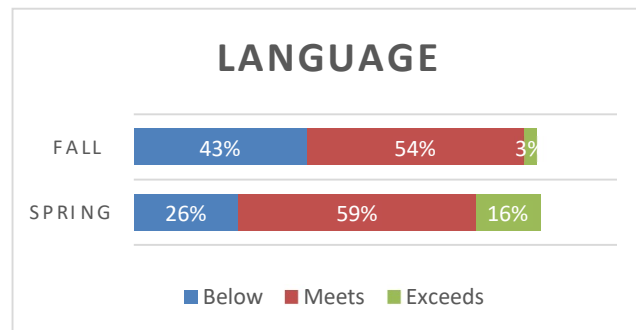
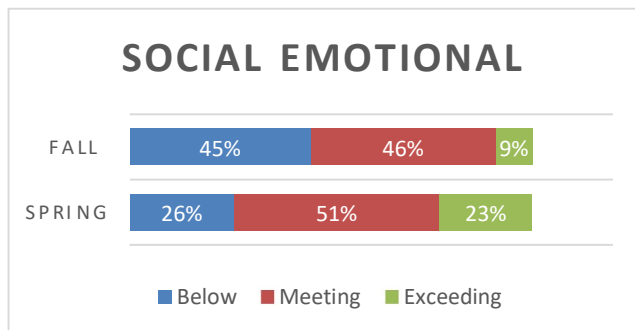
Alaska Pre-Elementary Grant Outcome Measures

Child Pre-Elementary Growth during School Year 2019-2020

The most current child growth data is from the 2018-2019 school year (SY). Due to COVID-19, assessment periods in SY2019-2020 and SY2020-2021 were suspended.

Teachers observed children based on “Widely Held Expectations.” Widely Held Expectations is a term from **Teaching Strategies GOLD®** that defines a set of expectations that are criterion referenced and research-based for where we typically see children’s skills, knowledge, and behaviors for each grade/class. A student’s development is recorded as meeting, exceeding, or below “widely held expectations” for a child their age. DEED requires pre-elementary grantees submit data from the following five developmental areas: social emotional, cognitive, language, literacy, and mathematics.

The following graphs show data during two checkpoint periods, Fall of 2018 and Spring of 2019. Four-year-old and three-year-old students from school districts and Head Starts receiving state funds are represented.





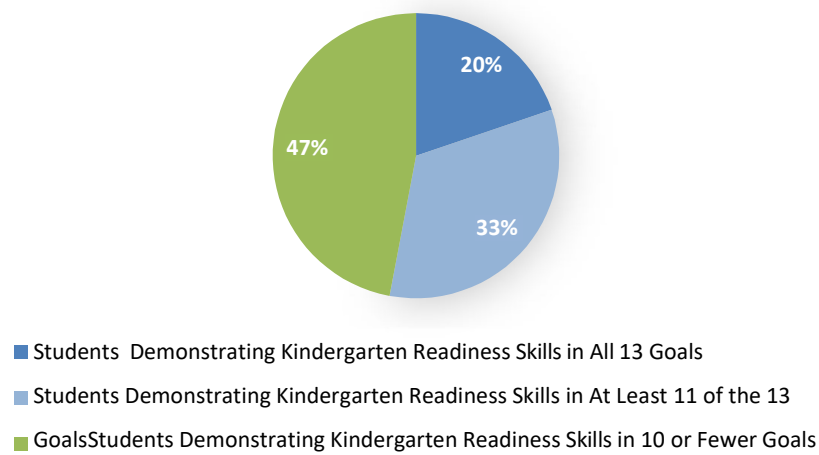
Alaska Developmental Profile (ADP)

The ADP is an observational tool administered by kindergarten teachers to all kindergarten students during the first four weeks of the school year. First-grade students who did not attend kindergarten were also assessed and are represented in the data presented below. Teachers provide a rating for each student for 13 goals within five domain areas. There are 3 possible ratings:

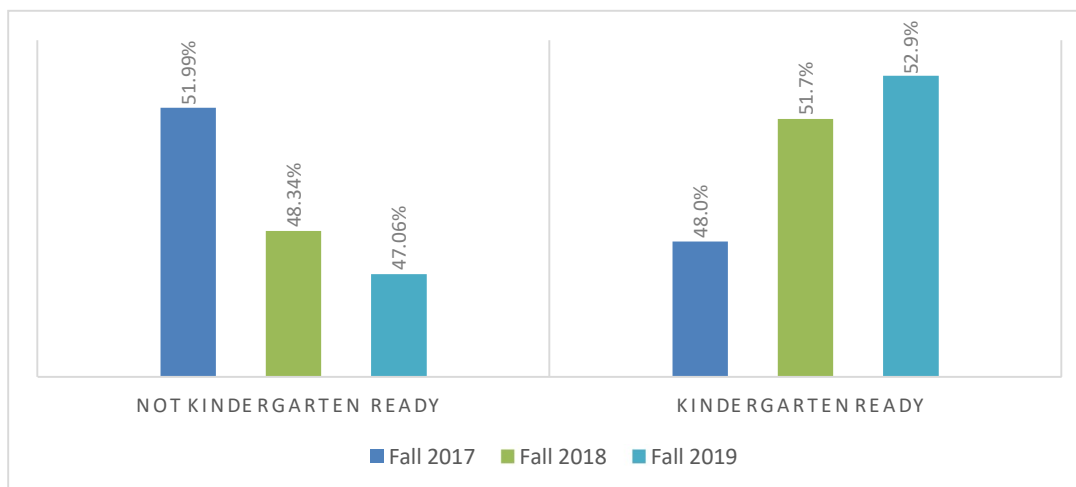
- 0 = Student does not demonstrate the goal
- 1 = Student demonstrates the goal at least 50 percent of the time
- 2 = Student demonstrates the goal consistently at least 80 percent of the time

A student who receives a **2** on at least **11 out of 13 goals** is determined to be demonstrating kindergarten readiness skills.

ADP assessment requirement was suspended for Fall 2020 due to COVID-19 impacting school start dates, closures, and manner of providing services. The most recent ADP data is from the Fall of 2019. During the Fall of 2019, 9,401 kindergarten students were assessed with the Alaska Developmental Profiles. Results show 53 percent of students entering kindergarten were demonstrating kindergarten readiness skills while 47 percent were not.



When comparing ADP data over the last three years, there is an annual increase in the number of students entering kindergarten demonstrating readiness skills. Additionally, there was an annual decrease in students assessed during the three- year period.





Head Start State Funding

Grantee	FY21 State Allocation	FY22 State Allocation	FY22 Students Being Served (COUNT)	FY22 All Staffing	FY22 Communities Served
ALEUTIAN PRIBILOF ISLANDS ASSOCIATION	\$191,137.35	\$186,241.00	65	24	3
ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS	\$255,984.17	\$344,855.00	221	44	11
BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION	\$200,711.21	\$197,845.00	96	30	4
CCS EARLY LEARNING	\$712,715.23	\$667,992.00	369	142	4
CHUGACHMIUT	\$108,841.41	\$107,931.00	22	8	2
COOK INLET NATIVE HEAD START	\$574,419.05	\$657,065.00	259	64	1
COOK INLET TRIBAL COUNCIL, INC	\$260,929.80	\$252,597.00	72	38	1
COUNCIL OF ATHABASCAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS	\$71,098.03	\$72,003.00	30	9	4
TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE	\$380,684.73	\$369,709.00	229	28	18
FAIRBANKS NATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC	\$752,971.79	\$671,483.00	303	76	1
METLAKATLA	\$272,890.42	\$222,683.00	71	20	1
KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE	\$285,473.82	\$280,345.00	105	31	1
KIDS' CORPS, INC	\$443,646.36	\$483,616.00	223	105	1
KAWERAK INC	\$590,624.87	\$560,531.00	238	116	11
PLAY N LEARN INC (THRIVALASKA)	\$242,408.33	\$237,513.00	248	43	1
RURAL ALASKA COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, INC	\$1,088,714.79	\$1,060,802.00	656	218	24
TLINGIT & HAIDA TRIBES CENTRAL COUNCIL	\$419,748.65	\$479,789.00	262	53	10
TOTAL	\$6,853,000.00	\$6,853,000.00	3469	1049	98

Head Start programs receive 80% of their funding from the Federal Office. Programs are required to provide a 20% non-federal share, which state funding can be used towards.