Report to the Legislature

Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development

James Fields, Chair

education.alaska.gov

Senate and House Education Committees
March 2, 2022

Who We Are

education.alaska.gov/State_Board

James Fields

Chair
REAA Representative

Dr. Keith Hamilton

First Vice Chair
Public At-Large

Sandy Kowalski

Second Vice Chair
Fourth Judicial District

Sally Stockhausen

First Judicial District

Jeffrey Erickson

Second Judicial District

Lorri Van Diest

Third Judicial District

Bob Griffin

Public At-Large

LTC James Fowley

Military Advisor

Madelyn Brokaw

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 regulation changes updating Alaska's Early Literacy Guidelines.
- Adopted updated regulations regarding the assessment of English language learners, exit criteria for English learners, and updated English language proficiency standards.
- The board approved the University of Alaska Southeast (UAS) Teacher Preparation Program.
  - The approval of the program is a continuation of approval and follows the program receiving Council of Accreditation of Educator Program (CAEP) accreditation for initial licensure level and advanced level programs in Spring 2020. The board's approval of the UAS program is valid through June 30, 2025.
- Sent three sets of regulations out for public comment. The regulations include teacher certification, assessment participation guidelines, and Native languages.
  - The public comment period closed on January 26, 2022. The board will accept oral testimony on the three items in its March 2022 meeting.

AK STAR

ALASKA SYSTEM OF ACADEMIC READINESS

IS COMING!

DEED Significant Steps: Assessments

- 2021 Assessments
  - Administered assessments in 2021; no blanket waivers from the U.S. Department of Education.
    - DEED cautions against comparing 2021 PEAKS data to previous years at the statewide level.
- Development of an Innovative Assessment System – AK STAR
  - Selected NWEA as the vendor to develop the assessment system, called the Alaska System of Academic Readiness, or AK STAR.
  - For the 2021-2022 school year, AK STAR is comprised of three interim assessments and one summative assessment.
  - Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, the third interim assessment and summative assessment will be combined into one test.

DEED Significant Steps: Advancing Tribal Compacting and Culturally Relevant Education

- In July 2021, DEED announced a grant to the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) to scope tribal compacting of education in Alaska.
- In October 2021, DEED announced a grant to Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITC) to conduct an analysis and identify strategies for developing culturally relevant curriculum, programs, and school partnerships for Alaska Native and American Indian students.

DEED Significant Steps: Improving Teacher Retention and Recruitment

- In April 2021, the Governor's Teacher Retention and Recruitment (TRR) Working Group released the survey results, along with a TRR Action Plan.
  - Six essential areas for practical, professional, and policy recommendations: enhancing recruiting efforts; strengthening working conditions; restructuring retirement options; developing leadership; creating paraprofessional pathways; and streamlining certification.
- In October 2021, DEED awarded a contract to Adams Analytic Solution LLC.
  - Throughout Winter 2021-2022, the contractor will implement work outlined in the TRR Action Plan.
  - DEED expects a finalized Implementation Timeline in September 2022.

Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development

Tribal Compact Committee

Sandy Kowalski
James Fields
Bob Griffin

Tribal Compacting Committee Mission and Goals

- Mission Statement - Support tribal compacting by identifying and developing regulations that support the efforts of tribes throughout Alaska
- Goals –
  - On-going – Continued learning; Identify barriers
  - This Year – Develop additional teacher pathway
  - Mid-Range – Identify what supports look like for Tribes, districts, and DEED
  - Long-Term –
    - Identify areas that need further development
    - Develop regulations with input from Tribes
    - Explore oversight and reporting (i.e. regional individuality, learn from Health System compacting in Alaska)

Reading Committee

Bob Griffin
Sandy Kowalski
Sally Stockhausen

Why We're Focused on Reading
Committee Priorities
Why We're Optimistic

Alaska's Education Challenge Goals

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

Why is 3rd Grade Reading Our Top Priority?

- 16 points below the U.S. Average NAEP Scores – at 9 years old
  - A problem across economic status
- Timely Literacy – Fundamental to Future Success
- Impacts All Subjects and Later School Years

NAEP Test Results Alaska			2019
Grade	Subject	Status	US Ranking
4th	Reading	Free or Reduced Lunch	51st
4th	Reading	Non-Free or Reduced Lunch	51st
Rankings are all 50 states and DC			

Results Trending the Wrong Direction

- Impacting Later Grades
- Impacting Math Scores

NAEP Test Results Alaska			2003	2019
Grade	Subject	Status	US Ranking	
4th	**Reading**	**Free or Reduced Lunch**	**49th**	**51st**
4th	Math	Free or Reduced Lunch	36th	50th
4th	**Reading**	Non-Free or Reduced Lunch	44th	51st
4th	Math	Non-Free or Reduced Lunch	39th	49th
8th	**Reading**	**Free or Reduced Lunch**	**49th**	**50th**
8th	Math	Free or Reduced Lunch	29th*	46th
8th	**Reading**	Non-Free or Reduced Lunch	47th	49th
8th	Math	Non-Free or Reduced Lunch	31st*	45th
Rankings are all 50 states and DC				

Reading Improvement Assets

- State Board of Education and DEED Focus
- Alaska K-12 System Well Funded
- Broad Bipartisan Support for Reading Reform
- State Poverty – Below U.S. Average
- Examples of Excellent Outcomes Already
- Strength of Our Diversity

Committee Priorities

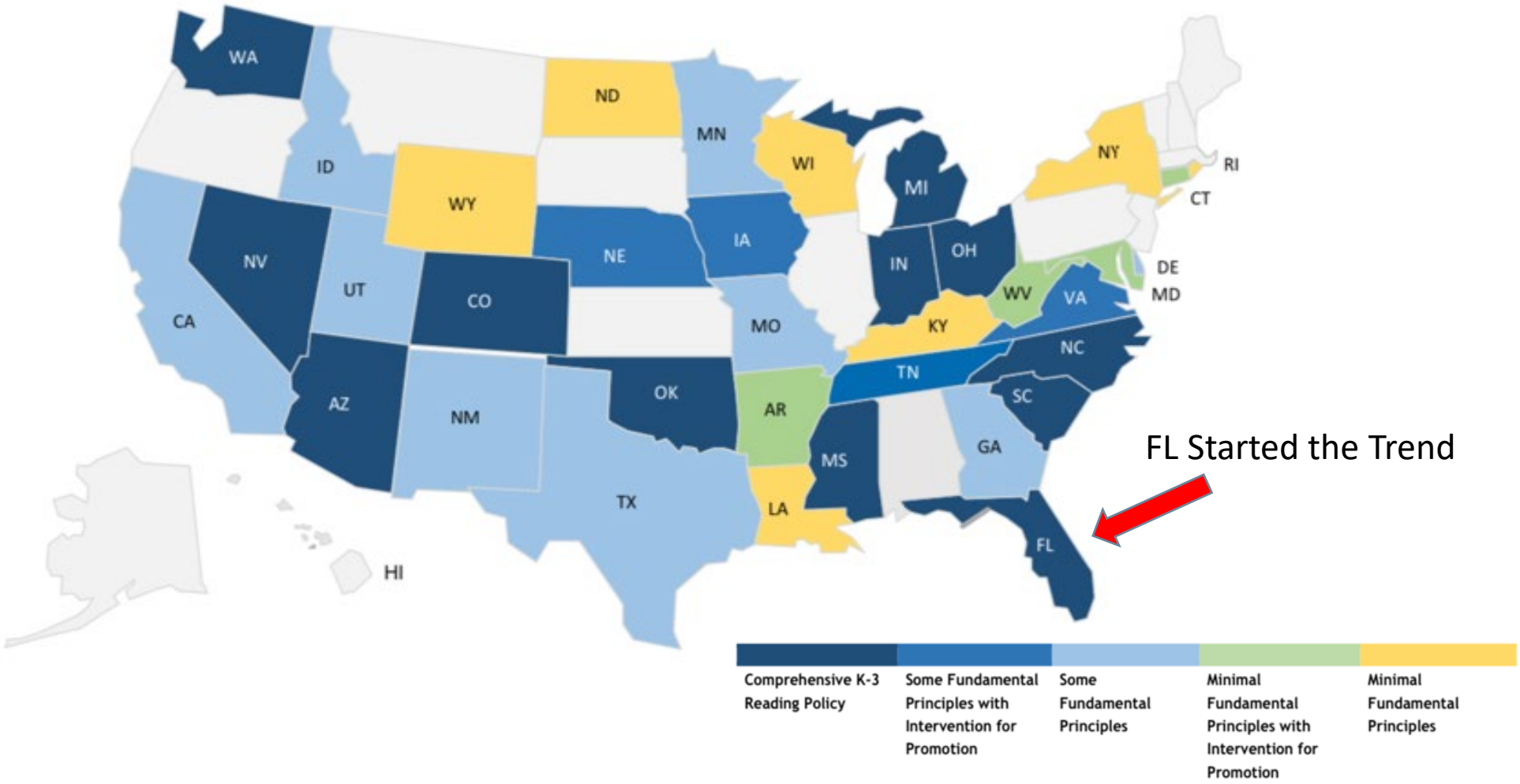
- Regulations Development with DEED
  - Focus on Science of Reading (SoR)
  - Anticipate Statute Changes
    - Sensitive to Alaska Specific Cultural Needs
  - Teacher Quality
    - Measurable Proficiency in SoR
      - Initial Licensure
      - Professional Development/Renewal
  - Data Focused Support for Schools/Teachers

Why We're Optimistic

- Compared to any other state:
  - Our kids are just as bright
  - Our teachers are just as dedicated
  - Our parents love their kids just as much
  - We enjoy exceptional public support

- Policy Choices Make a Difference

Alaska is One of a Few States Without a Statewide Reading Policy



Alaska vs Florida NAEP Standings 2003

NAEP Test Results Alaska			2003 - 40th in US
Grade	Subject	Status	US Ranking
4th	Reading	Free or Reduced Lunch	49th
4th	Math	Free or Reduced Lunch	36th
4th	Reading	Non-Free or Reduced Lunch	44th
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NAEP Test Results Florida			2003 – 30th in US
Grade	Subject	Status	US Ranking
4th	Reading	Free or Reduced Lunch	28th
4th	Math	Free or Reduced Lunch	30th
4th	Reading	Non-Free or Reduced Lunch	15th
4th	Math	Non-Free or Reduced Lunch	18th
8th	Reading	Free or Reduced Lunch	38th
8th	**Math**	**Free or Reduced Lunch**	40th*
8th	Reading	Non-Free or Reduced Lunch	40th
8th	**Math**	**Non-Free or Reduced Lunch**	37th*
Rankings are all 50 states and DC			

Alaska vs Florida NAEP Standings 2003 and 2019

NAEP Test Results Alaska			2003	2019
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NAEP Test Results Florida			2003	2019
Grade	Subject	Status	US Ranking	
4th	Reading	Free or Reduced Lunch	28th	1st
4th	Math	Free or Reduced Lunch	30th	1st
4th	Reading	Non-Free or Reduced Lunch	15th	4th
4th	Math	Non-Free or Reduced Lunch	18th	11th
8th	Reading	Free or Reduced Lunch	38th	5th
8th	Math	Free or Reduced Lunch	40th*	25st
8th	Reading	Non-Free or Reduced Lunch	40th	19th
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Florida Kids with Greatest Gains

- Students in Low-Income Groups
- Students in Minority Groups
- Students with Disabilities
- Students with Limited English Proficiency

- Miami-Dade Public Schools (MDPS)
  - 60% Free or Reduced Lunch
  - 60% Don’t Speak English at Home
  - 93% Ethnic Minorities
  - 2019 MDPS 4th Grade NAEP Reading Score:
    - 4 Points *Higher* than White Alaskan Kids

Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development

Effective Educators Committee

Sally Stockhausen
James Fields
Sandy Kowalski

Effective Educators Committee Mission and Goals

- Mission Statement – In order to grow and attract effective educators, we will remove barriers and increase articulated pathways that will meet the immediate and future demands of the state's historic teacher retention and recruitment demands

- Goals –
  - Identify and Remove Barriers
  - Investigate and Facilitate Paraprofessional Pathways
  - Investigate and Facilitate Alternative Certification Pathways

Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development

Career & Technical Education (CTE) and Cultural Education Committee

Lorri Van Diest
Jeffrey Erickson
Keith Hamilton

CTE and Cultural Education Committee Goals

- Sponsor a resolution promoting Work-Based Learning (WBL)
  - Promote statewide awareness and encourage business/industry stakeholders to sponsor high school students in WBL opportunities
  - Outreach to the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Alaska Work Force Investment Board and other policy stakeholders to remove barriers to placing K-12 students in WBL opportunities.
- Multi-District Collaboratives
  - Recognize the success of CTE programs working across multiple districts to incentivize cross district collaboration grants using federal COVID Relief Funds.

Alaska State Board of Education and Early Development

Safety and Well-Being Committee

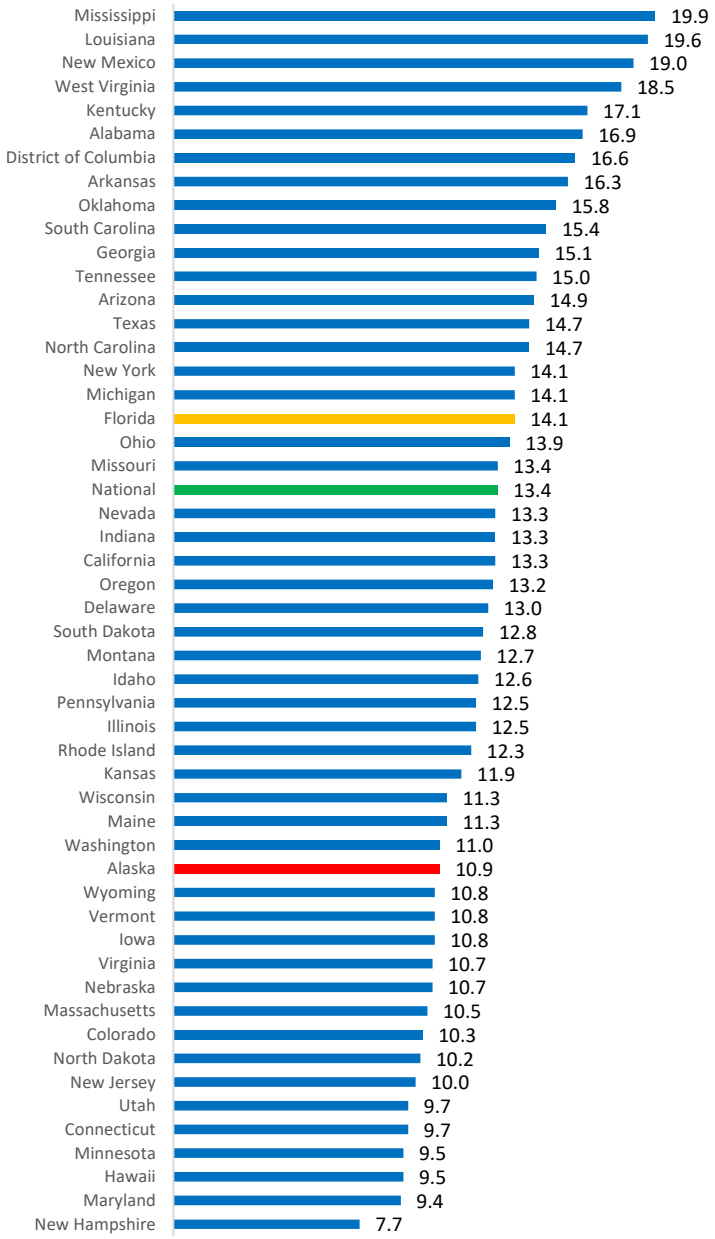
Keith Hamilton
Jeffrey Erickson
Lorri Van Diest

Safety and Well-Being Committee Goals

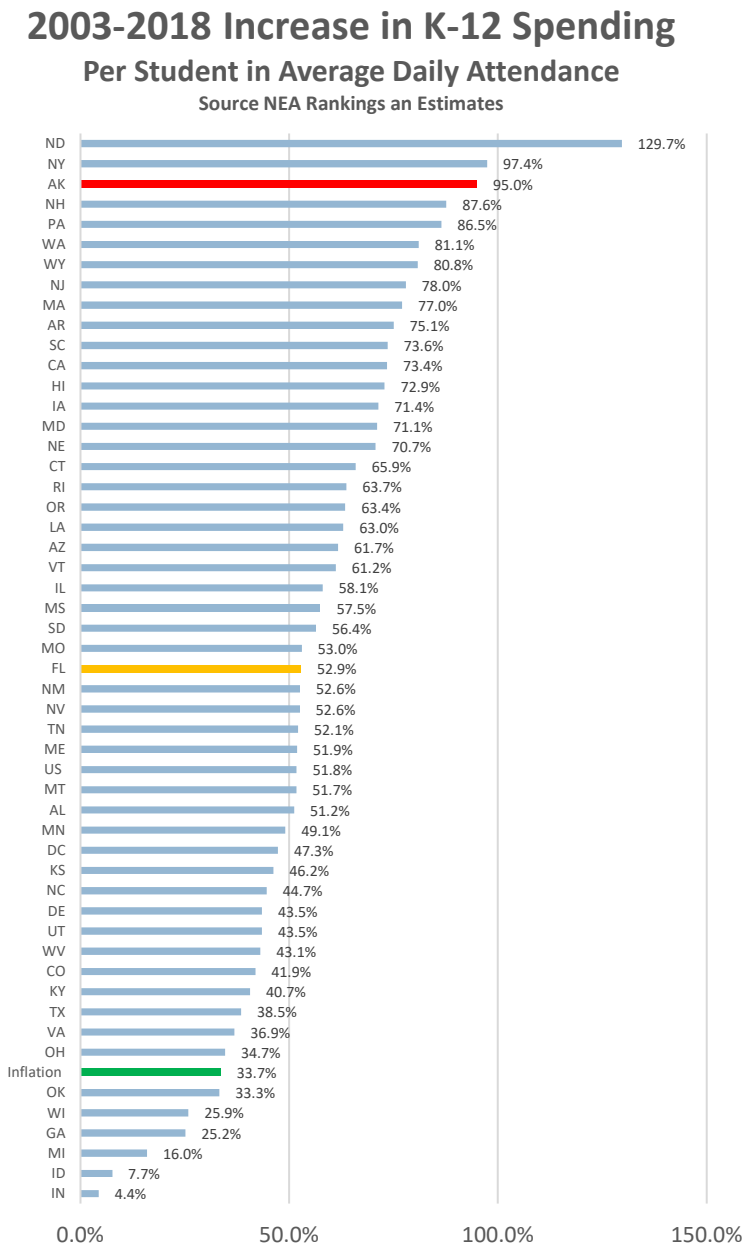
- Increase the value of mandatory eLearning programs by improving educator engagement.
- Work with teacher preparation programs to develop trauma-engaged schools framework in both the program's instruction and environment.
- Provide support to school districts who do not have counselors, nurses, or social workers.

Supplemental Slides –State Board of Education Reading Committee

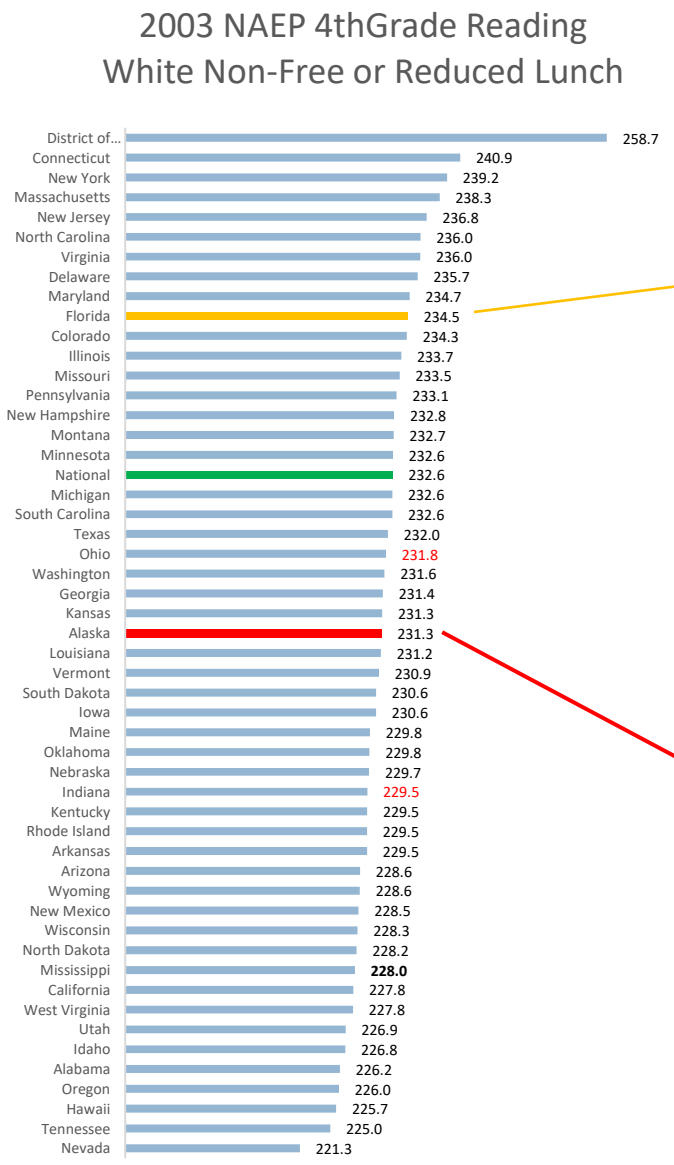
2018 State Poverty Rates

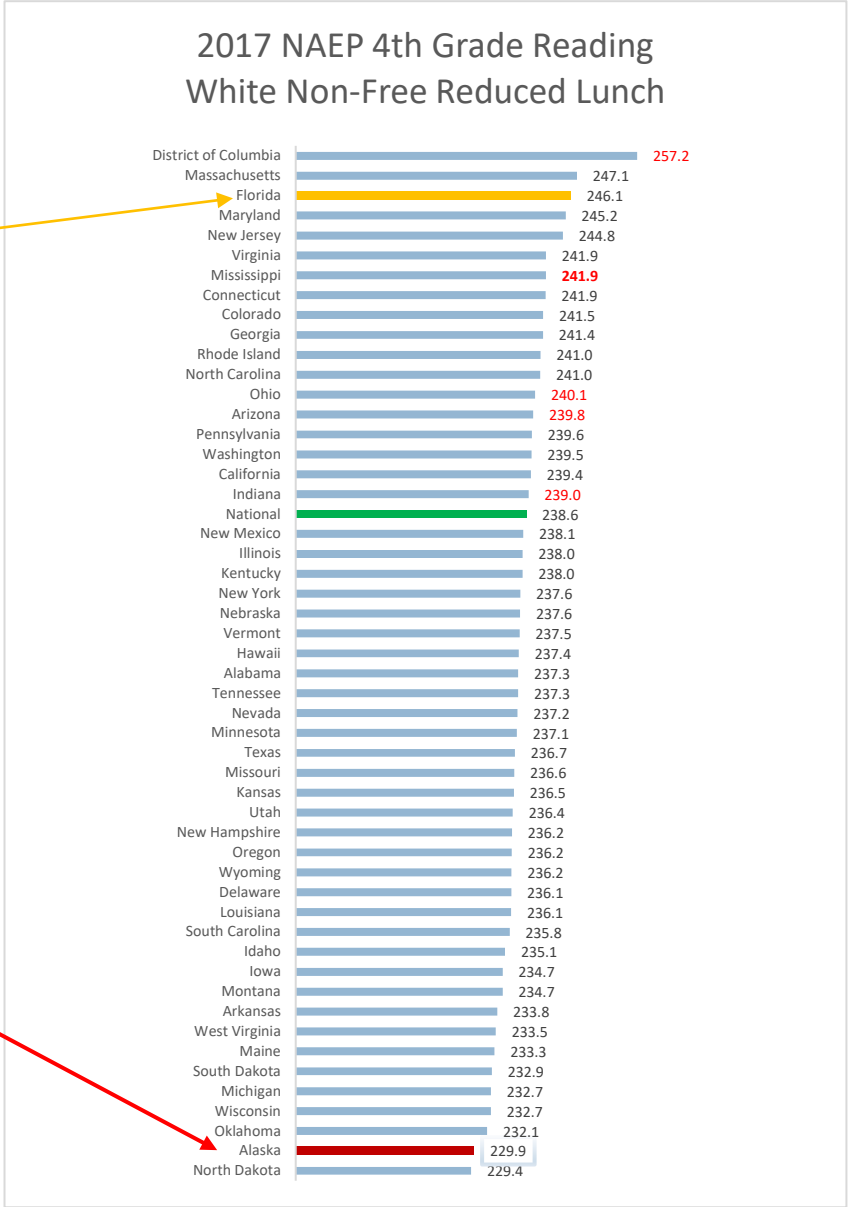


Alaska K-12 Spending Grew 79% Faster Than Florida over 15 years



Florida vs Alaska: 2003, FL +3 Points Higher 2017, FL +16 Points Higher
2003, AK -1 Point Below US Average 2017, AK -9 Points Below





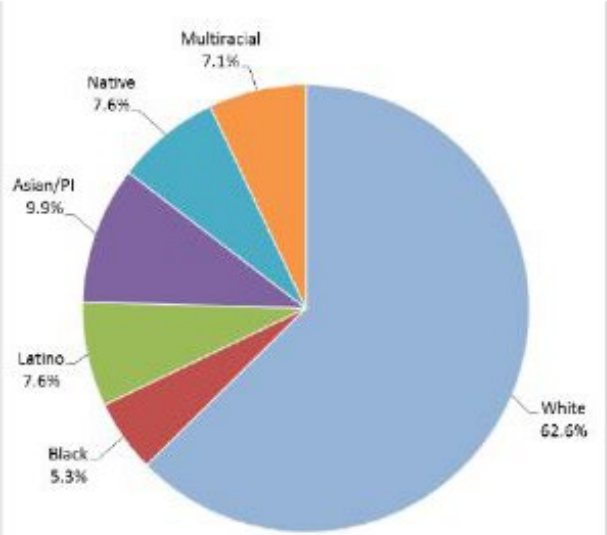
Alaska/Anchorage Diversity

US Non-White Population	42.2%
Alaska Non-White Population	42.5%
Anchorage Non-White Population	43.5%
Anchorage	64th Largest City
Anchorage	126th in Ethnic Diversity
Anchorage	182nd in Linguistic Diversity

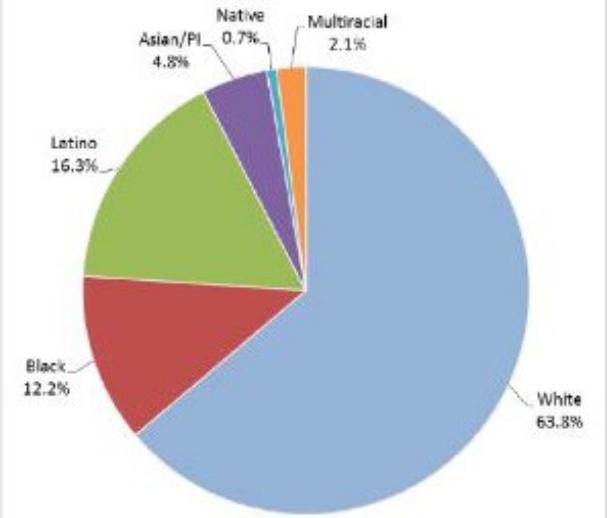
Source: 2020 Census Data, 2021 Wallet Hub Survey

Anchorage vs United States

f Anchorage and the United States



Anchorage, 2010



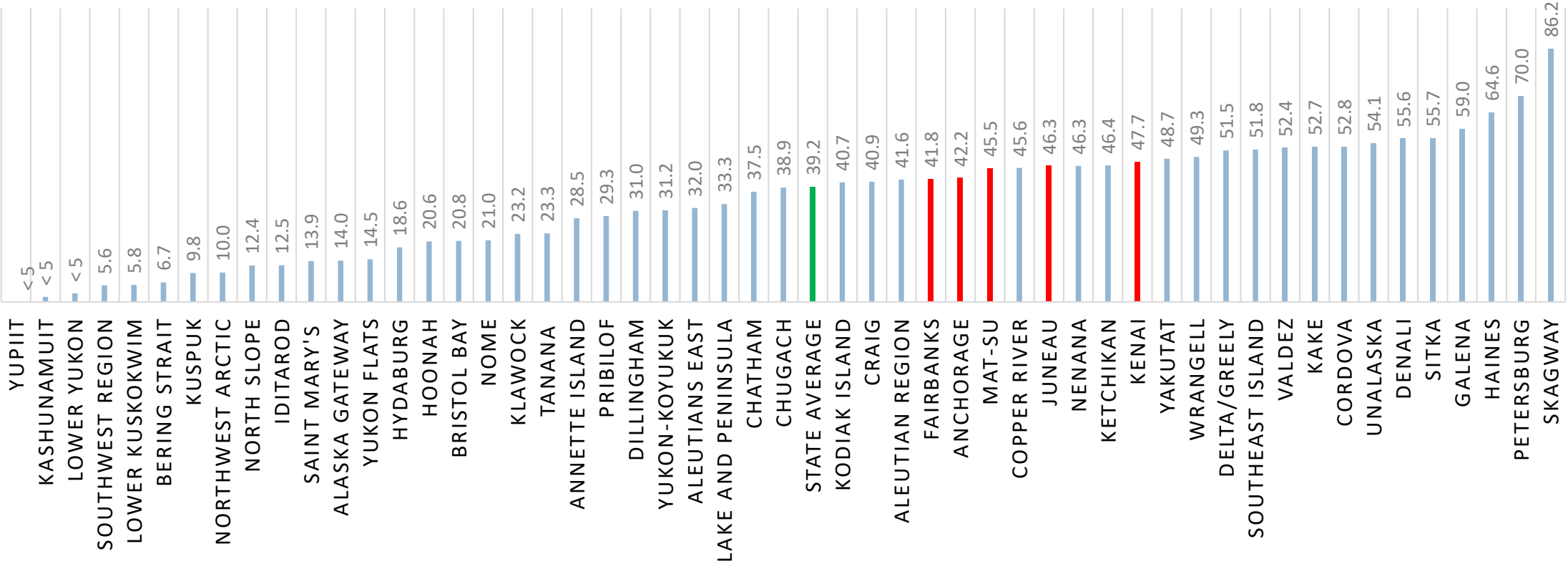
United States, 2010

2019 PEAKs English Language Arts Proficiency Rates

54 Districts -- Top 14 Districts are Rural

Rank	District	English Language Arts Proficiency Rate
1st	Skagway	86.2%
15th	Kenai	47.7%
18th	Juneau	46.3%
20th	Mat-Su	45.5%
21st	Anchorage	42.2%
22nd	Fairbanks	41.8%
	State Average	39.2%

2019 PEAKs English Language Arts Proficiency Rates by District



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