



Early Learning Coordination

Early Learning Coordination is made up of the following components:

Grant	Funding Amount
<p>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.</p>	\$ 6,853,000
<p>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.</p>	\$474,700
<p>Best Beginnings Best Beginnings is a public-private partnership that mobilizes people and resources to ensure all Alaska children begin school ready to succeed.</p>	\$320,000

Pre-Kindergarten Grants

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

Grant	Funding Amount
<p>Pre-Kindergarten Grants Pre-kindergarten grants support voluntary, comprehensive, half-day preschool programs for four- and five-year old’s through school districts, based on the guiding principles and goals set forth in the Alaska Early Learning Guidelines.</p>	\$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, which state funding can be used towards, unless a waiver has been granted. In FY2021, all Alaska Head Start programs received 13.36% of their FY2019 federal funding allocation for their non-federal share. Prior to implementation of the state’s [new equitable funding formula](#) in FY2021, programs received a range of non-federal funding from 0.01% to 30%.

Included at the end of this document is an attachment that provides a historical overview of State Head Start allocations, including federal allocation information as it relates to the new 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.
- 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 7/1/2020 - 1/31/2021	State Award
Alaska Family Services	Mat-Su Valley	1	\$60,000
Kid’s Corps	Anchorage	20	\$120,000
RurAL CAP	Haines and Kodiak	29	\$145,000
SEA-AEYC	Juneau	114	\$109,000
DHSS (Administrative)			\$40,000
Total:		164	\$474,000

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 31, 2020, Best Beginnings has accomplished the following:

- Bethel and Mountain Village started new Imagination Libraries
- 29 Imagination Library affiliates provided books to 17,450 children, under the age of 5, in 113 communities
- 34 percent of all eligible Alaska children are enrolled in the Imagination Library
- 107,420 free books have been mailed to enrolled children



- 2,678 people receive Best Beginnings monthly e-newsletter
- 11,975 recipients of the weekly parent e-newsletter
- 8 Best Beginnings family engagement events, virtual or in-person, with 457 attendees. The following is a comment from an attendee:
 - “My child really enjoyed the activities and videos from his Little Learners Camp. It was a great option for hosting camp at home during these times. We both learned more about bears and bear safety, enjoyed the activities together and I, as a parent, enjoyed the flexible and simplicity of each days format. We are excited to attend our next virtual Little Learners Camp!”

Pre-Kindergarten Grants

This year is the first 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 to meet Alaska 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 FY2021 was \$3.2 million. Grantees projected student enrollment at the beginning of the school year to include 700 students. This is a 50 percent decrease in enrollment with a 43 percent decrease in pre-kindergarten funds when compared to FY2020.

School District	Projected Number of Students	FY2021 Funding
Alaska Gateway School District	40	\$149,735
Aleutians East Borough School District	30	\$150,000
Anchorage School District	82	\$872,095
Bristol Bay Borough School District	12	\$149,659
Chatham School District	24	\$149,997
Chugach School District	13	\$86,612
Fairbanks North Star Borough School District	180	\$150,000
Hydaburg City School District	11	\$149,987
Juneau Borough School District	50	\$150,000
Kake City School District	20	\$149,412
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District	11	\$143,484
Kodiak Island Borough School District	100	\$150,000
Lower Kuskokwim School District	11	\$150,000
Sitka School District	36	\$150,000
Southeast Island School District	25	\$149,019
Southwest Region School District	37	\$150,000
Yukon-Koyukuk School District	18	\$150,000
Total	700	\$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

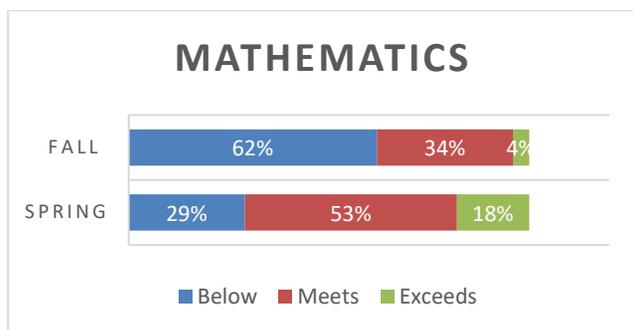
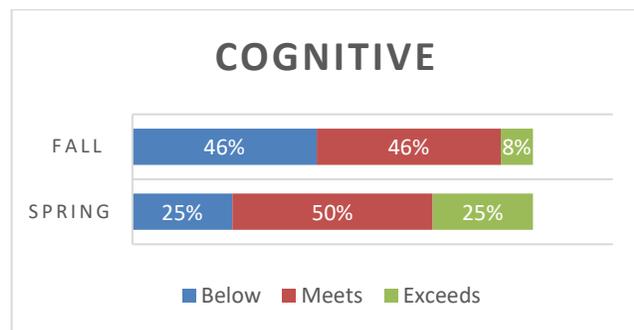
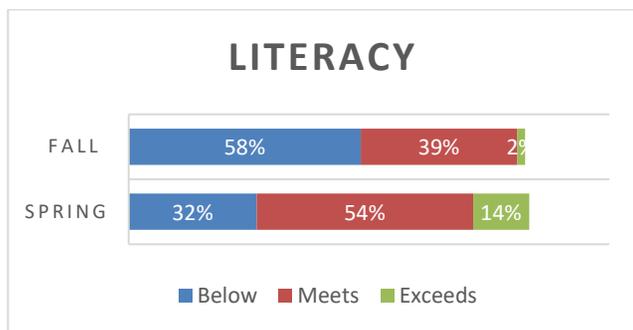
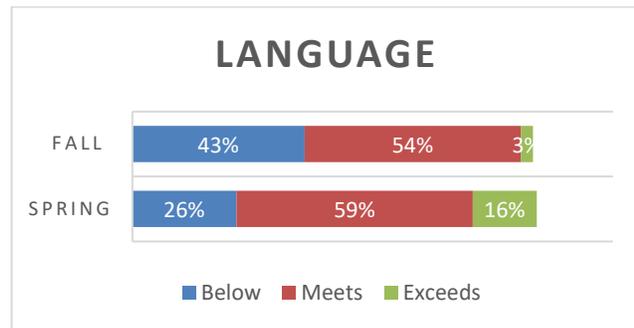
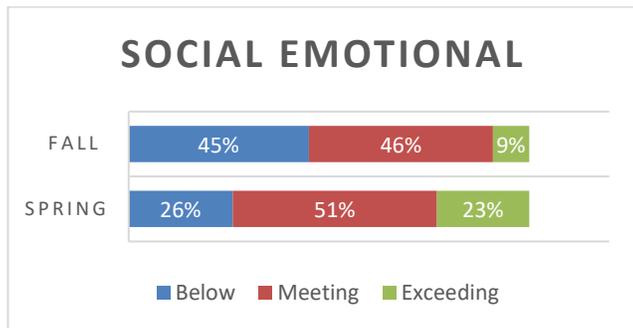
Teaching Strategies GOLD® is ongoing authentic, observational assessment for all areas of development and learning with performance-assessment tasks selected as predictors of school success. It is designed for use within meaningful everyday experiences that occur in the early childhood classroom or program setting. Teaching Strategies **GOLD®** may be used across classrooms and is not linked to a particular curriculum. The Teaching Strategies **GOLD®** assessment is aligned to the *Alaska Early Learning Guidelines* and has been cross walked with the *Alaska English/Language Arts and Mathematics Standards*.

The data for school year (SY) 2019-2020 includes only the fall assessment data. The spring data requirement was suspended due to school closures from March 2020 through the end of the school year. The most current developmental growth data is from SY 2018-2019.

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 is recorded as meeting, exceeding, or below “widely held expectations” for a child their age. DEED requires pre-elementary grantees submit data on 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.





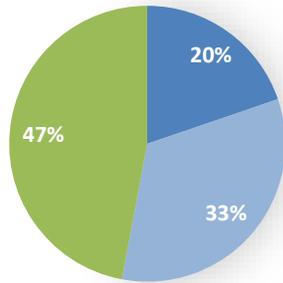
Alaska Developmental Profile (ADP)

The ADP is an observational tool administered by teachers to all kindergarten students during the first four weeks of the school year. 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 or at least 80 percent of the time

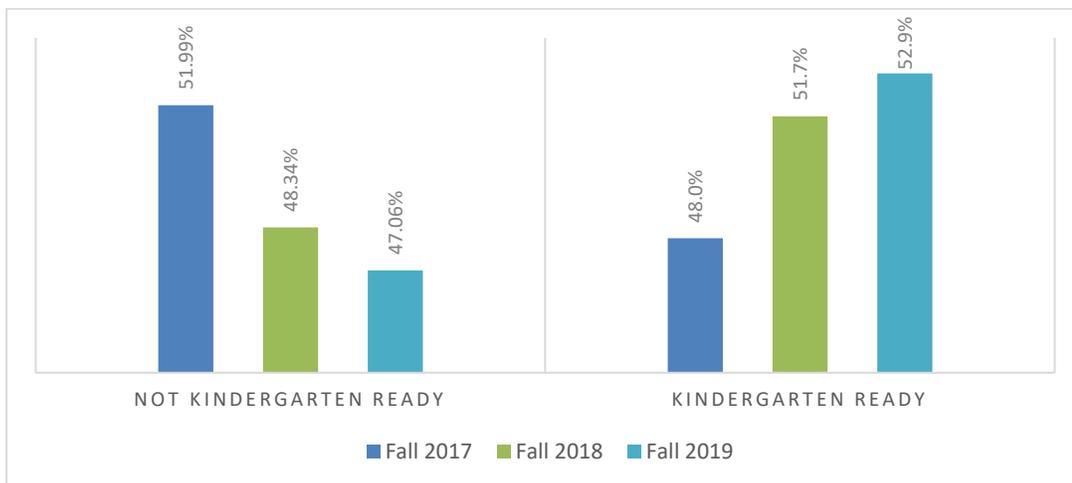
A student who receives a **2** on at least **11 out of 13 goals** is determined to be demonstrating kindergarten readiness skills.

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 kindergarten ready while 47 percent were not.



- Students Demonstrating Kindergarten Readiness in All 13 Goals
- Students Demonstrating Kindergarten Readiness in At Least 11 of the 13 Goals
- Students Demonstrating Kindergarten Readiness in 10 or Fewer Goals

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



Head Start State & Federal Funding Allocations (FY2016-FY2022)

Grantee	# of Students Served	# of Staff	# of Communities Served	FY2016 State Allocation	FY2017 State Allocation	FY2018 State Allocation	FY2019 State Allocation	FY2020 State Allocation	% of FY2020 State Allocation	FY2021 State Allocation (New Formula Enacted)	% of FY2021 State Allocation	FY2019 Federal Allocation (minus one-time funding)	FY2022 PROJECTED State Allocation	% of PROJECTED FY2022 State Allocation	FY2020 Federal Allocation
ALEUTIAN PRIBILOF ISLANDS ASSOCIATION	58	9	3	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	0.4%	\$ 191,137.35	2.8%	\$ 1,430,196.00	\$ 183,196.66	2.7%	\$ 1,550,589.00
ASSOCIATION OF VILLAGE COUNCIL PRESIDENTS	234	38	11	\$ 357,948.00	\$ 357,948.00	\$ 357,948.00	\$ 357,948.00	\$ 357,948.00	5.3%	\$ 255,984.17	3.7%	\$ 1,915,416.00	\$ 349,667.56	5.1%	\$ 2,959,610.00
BRISTOL BAY NATIVE ASSOCIATION	89	30	3	\$ 73,934.00	\$ 73,934.00	\$ 73,934.00	\$ 73,934.00	\$ 73,934.00	1.1%	\$ 200,711.21	2.9%	\$ 1,501,833.00	\$ 195,748.07	2.9%	\$ 1,656,825.00
CCS EARLY LEARNING	307	112	4	\$ 567,099.00	\$ 567,099.00	\$ 567,099.00	\$ 567,099.00	\$ 567,099.00	8.4%	\$ 712,715.23	10.4%	\$ 5,332,932.00	\$ 665,885.02	9.7%	\$ 5,636,096.00
CHUGACHMIUT	26	12	2	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	0.4%	\$ 108,841.41	1.6%	\$ 814,412.00	\$ 104,540.04	1.5%	\$ 884,834.00
COOK INLET NATIVE HEAD START	227	67	1	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 95,000.00	1.4%	\$ 574,419.05	8.4%	\$ 4,298,123.00	\$ 667,634.65	9.7%	\$ 5,650,905.00
COOK INLET TRIBAL COUNCIL, INC **	72	49	1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 260,929.80	3.8%	\$ 1,952,422.00	\$ 246,791.03	3.6%	\$ 2,088,856.00
COUNCIL OF ATHABASCAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS ***	30	6	4	\$ 57,460.00	\$ 57,460.00	\$ 57,460.00	\$ 57,460.00	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 71,098.03	1.0%	\$ 531,995.00	\$ 71,332.13	1.0%	\$ 603,760.00
TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE	229	52	18	\$ 583,238.00	\$ 583,238.00	\$ 583,238.00	\$ 583,238.00	\$ 583,238.00	8.6%	\$ 380,684.73	5.6%	\$ 2,848,495.00	\$ 374,045.56	5.5%	\$ 3,165,947.00
FAIRBANKS NATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC	303	66	1	\$ 107,293.00	\$ 107,293.00	\$ 107,293.00	\$ 107,293.00	\$ 107,293.00	1.6%	\$ 752,971.79	11.0%	\$ 5,634,154.00	\$ 667,634.65	9.7%	\$ 5,650,905.00
METLAKATLA	238	116	1	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	0.4%	\$ 272,890.42	4.0%	\$ 2,041,918.00	\$ 218,345.25	3.2%	\$ 1,848,089.00
KENAITZE INDIAN TRIBE	57	19	1	\$ 30,549.00	\$ 30,549.00	\$ 30,549.00	\$ 30,549.00	\$ 30,549.00	0.5%	\$ 285,473.82	4.2%	\$ 2,136,074.00	\$ 276,506.29	4.0%	\$ 2,340,368.00
KIDS' CORPS, INC	248	111	1	\$ 818,699.00	\$ 818,699.00	\$ 818,699.00	\$ 818,699.00	\$ 818,699.00	12.1%	\$ 443,646.36	6.5%	\$ 3,319,609.00	\$ 485,181.95	7.1%	\$ 4,106,613.00
KAWERAK INC	79	36	10	\$ 569,386.00	\$ 569,386.00	\$ 569,386.00	\$ 569,386.00	\$ 569,386.00	8.4%	\$ 590,624.87	8.6%	\$ 4,419,384.00	\$ 555,768.11	8.1%	\$ 4,704,059.00
PLAY N LEARN INC (THRIVALASKA)	142	22	1	\$ 439,596.00	\$ 439,596.00	\$ 439,596.00	\$ 439,596.00	\$ 439,596.00	6.5%	\$ 242,408.33	3.5%	\$ 1,813,834.00	\$ 237,898.97	3.5%	\$ 2,013,593.00
RURAL ALASKA COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, INC.	684	228	24	\$ 2,589,143.00	\$ 2,589,143.00	\$ 2,589,143.00	\$ 2,589,143.00	\$ 2,589,143.00	38.3%	\$ 1,088,714.79	15.9%	\$ 8,146,370.00	\$ 1,071,058.04	15.6%	\$ 9,065,508.00
TLINGIT & HAIDA TRIBES CENTRAL COUNCIL	288	65	10	\$ 441,170.00	\$ 441,170.00	\$ 441,170.00	\$ 441,170.00	\$ 441,170.00	6.5%	\$ 419,748.65	6.1%	\$ 3,140,793.00	\$ 481,763.97	7.0%	\$ 4,077,683.00
Total	3,311	1,038	96	\$ 6,820,515.00	\$ 6,820,515.00	\$ 6,820,515.00	\$ 6,820,515.00	\$ 6,763,055.00		\$ 6,853,000.00		\$ 51,277,960.00	\$ 6,852,997.94		\$ 58,004,240.00

NOTES:

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

*Each program received 13.36% of their FY2019 federal funding allocation.

*Some Head Start programs are eligible for additional 'one-time' federal funding for capital projects, pending annual appropriation. When establishing the State's new equitable funding formula, programs agreed that this one-time funding should be removed from the formula calculation.

*Each program is projected to receive 11.81% of their FY2020 federal funding allocation.

FY2021 State Head Start Equitable Funding Formula

Step 1: Legislative allotment divided by the total federal Head Start allocation = Straight percentage

Step 2: Straight percentage multiplied by the previous federal Head Start award(s) = Head Start Program State Award

FY2021 State Head Start Equitable Funding Formula Overview: <https://education.alaska.gov/headstart/Head%20Start%20and%20Early%20Head%20Start%20Grants%20&%20Allocations%20as%20of%208.14.2020.pdf>

** Cook Inlet Tribal Council was a newer grantee and did not receive funding until FY2021

*** Council of Athabascan Tribal Governance did not receive funding in FY2020 since they only served EHS (Birth to 3) and Pre-Elementary was defined as 3 to 5 years of age