



**February 8, 2023**

**House Education Committee – Alaska Reads Act Implementation**

*Follow-up on Committee Member Comments*

Prepared by DEED Staff

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- **Representative Story requested a copy of the HB114 bill.**

An enacted version of Chapter 40, SLA 2022 ([HB114](#)<sup>1</sup>) may be found on the Alaska State Legislature website and is attached as *Enclosure 1 HB0114Z*.

- **Representative Co-chair Ruffridge requested the number of students who are not proficient in reading based on the AK STAR assessment.**

The AK STAR is a summative assessment that was given in the spring of 2022 to students in grades 3-9. The assessment uses four proficiency ratings: Advanced, Proficient, Approaching, and Needs Support. Third grade English Language Arts assessment ratings for spring of 2022 are as follows:

- Advanced: 12.1%
- Proficient: 8.5%
- Approaching: 35.3%
- Needs Support: 44.2%

Combining the percentages from the “Approaching” and “Needs Support” ratings, the total number of third grade students that were not proficient in English Language Arts on the AK STAR summative assessment was 79.5%.

- **Representative McCormick requested information about the Department of Education and Early Development’s plan to support school districts that are not on the road system with broadband internet connection challenges?**

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development plans to support all schools with implementation of Alaska Reads Act. The majority of the components of the Alaska Reads Act are implemented independent of internet requirements; however, a few parts of the act are supported through internet-based programs and connections. As an alternative, those parts are accessible through paper-and-pencil (such as the literacy screener) and telephone connections for discussions. The virtual education component would be challenging with limited broadband connection; however, this program is voluntary.

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<sup>1</sup> Chapter 40, SLA 2022 Enrolled Version HB0114Z <https://www.akleg.gov/PDF/32/Bills/HB0114Z.PDF>

- **Representative McKay requested a list of schools in Anchorage that are in the 25% non-performing group?**

There are nine schools identified in the lowest performing 25% of schools serving students in grades kindergarten through three as determined under [AS 14.03.123](#), School and district accountability.

1. Central Middle School of Science
2. Lake Otis Elementary
3. North Star Elementary
4. Clark Middle School
5. Wendler Middle School
6. Nicholas J. Begich Middle School
7. Alaska State School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing
8. Whaley School
9. Frontier Charter School

Additional information about school and district accountability for [Anchorage School District](#)<sup>2</sup> may be found on the [System for School Success](#)<sup>3</sup> website.

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<sup>2</sup> Department of Education and Early Development. System of School Success. Anchorage School District (2021-2022)  
<https://education.alaska.gov/compass/Home/AccountabilitySchoolsInDistrict?districtId=5&schoolYear=2022>

<sup>3</sup> Department of Education and Early Development. System of School Success. <https://education.alaska.gov/akaccountability>