

Alaska Reads Act: Implementation Update

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

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Mission, Vision, and Purpose

Mission	Vision	Purpose
An excellent education for every student every day.	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	DEED exists to provide information, resources, and leadership to support an excellent education for every student every day.

Agenda


- Alaska Reads Act Alignment
- Implementation Supports
- Alaska Reads Act Overview
- Alaska Reads Act Positions
- Regulation Review
- Alaska Reads Act Funding

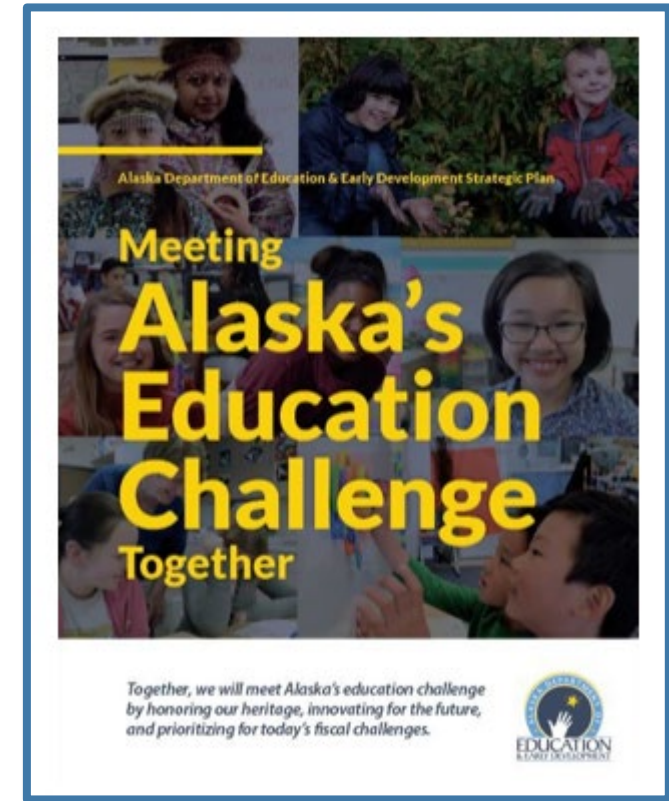


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Strategic Priorities: Alaska's Education Challenge

Five Shared Priorities:

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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.



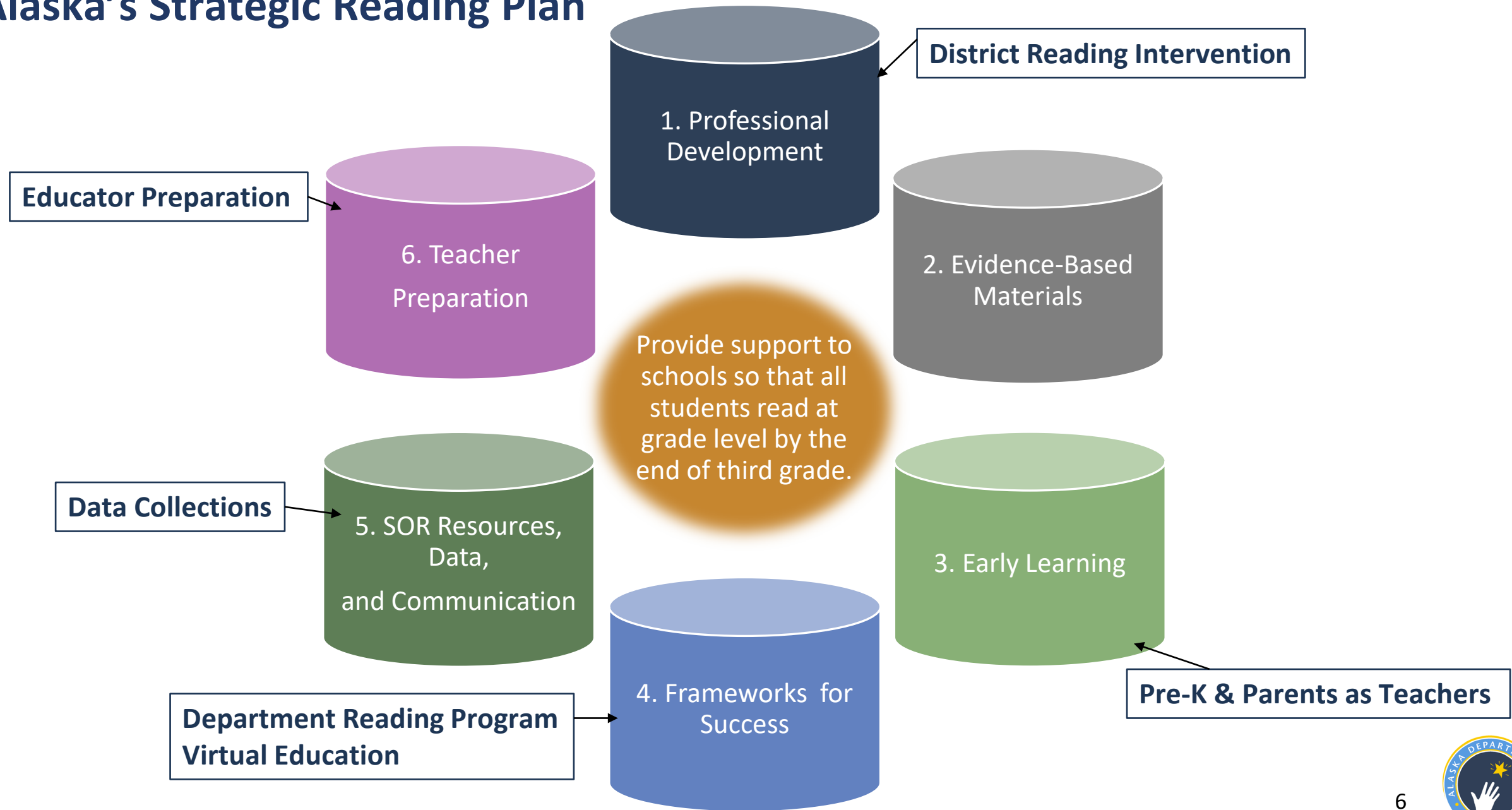
education.alaska.gov/akedchallenge

Alaska's Education Challenge:

Priority #1 Aligned Focus



Alaska's Strategic Reading Plan



Alaska Reads Act Implementation Supports



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Alaska Reads Act Webinar Schedule:

Weekly on Thursdays or Fridays from 3:15-4:15

Reads Act Focus:	Dates:	Leader and Presenter:
District Reading Intervention	January 12 to February 2	Susy McKenzie
Teacher Certification	February 9	Sondra Meredith
Department Reading Program	February 16 to March 2	Susy McKenzie
Early Learning	March 9 to March 23	Deb Riddle
Data Collections	March 30	John Jones
Virtual Education	April 6 to April 20	Kelly Manning
SOR Symposium Pre-Conference	April 28	Susy McKenzie
Office Hours	Feb. 10, March 10, April 7, May 4, May 11	ALL

Alaska Reads Act Timeline and Resources

TIMELINE

- Regulations
 - August 2022 – December 2022
- Preparation
 - September 2022 – March 2023
- State Board of Education regulation package
 - January 25, 2023
- Public Comment
 - February 2023 – March 2023
- Anticipated Adoption
 - April 2023

WEBSITE RESOURCES

<https://education.alaska.gov/akreads>:

- Webinar schedule and registration
- Recordings of webinars
- Slide decks
- Draft documents shared during webinars
- One-page supports
- FAQ
- Continue to develop resources



Communication

- Send questions to akreads@alaska.gov
- Request presentation for your district
- Reading Newsletter
- Alaska Reads Website (education.alaska.gov/akreads)
 - Weekly updates
- Planning in-person meetings around the state



Alaska Reads Act Overview



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Alaska Reads Act Components:



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Reads Act Programs:

- 1) Pre-K/Early Learning & Parents as Teachers
- 2) Department Reading Program
- 3) District Reading Improvement
- 4) Virtual Education

Other Requirements:

- 1) Reporting/Data Collections
- 2) Educator Preparation

Alaska Reads Act: Department Reading Program

Voluntary through application and acceptance

- Offered to the lowest-performing 25% of schools
- One year support (renewal options)
- Reading specialist support
- Reading Improvement Plan



Alaska Reads Act: District Reading Intervention

- **Required** of all districts receiving state funds
- Components:
 - Department-approved RTI/MTSS plan
 - Literacy screener to identify students with reading deficiencies
 - Individual Reading Plan for students with reading deficiencies
 - Grade progression consideration following spring screening for students with reading deficits
- Intervention must be based on the science of reading



Alaska Reads Act: District Reading Intervention Supports

Preparation for Implementation

- Focus on required District Reading Intervention
- Webinars and in-person support in writing the K-3 MTSS Plan
- Q & A work sessions with step- by- step directions
- Step-by-step guide with dates to remember

Improvement Supports

- K-3 MTSS Plan submission
- Feedback with plan for improvements needed
- Monthly webinars to address improvements
- Improvement areas addressed the first year

Alaska Reads Act: Early Education & Parents as Teachers

EARLY EDUCATION

- **Voluntary** grant program for eligible districts (three year)
- Purpose: to develop high-quality early education programs
- Standards will be adopted by SBOE
- .5 ADM for qualifying districts not receiving other state or federal funds for the program

PARENTS AS TEACHERS

- **Voluntary**
- Purpose: enhance school readiness and increase parental involvement
- For children younger than five years old
- Evidence-based early childhood program that involves parents

Alaska Reads Act: Virtual Education Consortium

- **Voluntary**
- Purpose: to provide virtual education and professional resources to students and teachers
- Consortium formed between AK DEED and school districts
- Teacher training on virtual instruction delivery
- Reading specialist available to provide reading intervention services virtually
- Must be available on or before July 1, 2024



Alaska Reads Act: Educator Qualifications



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Alaska Reads Act: Educator Qualifications

- Training, coursework, or testing in phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, oral language skills, and reading comprehension
- Approved by the state board in regulations



Alaska Reads Act: Educator Qualifications



Early Education



K-3 Educators



District Reading Teacher

Proposed Regulations

Educator Qualification Tracking

The department will add specific AK Reads endorsements to an educator's certification verifying qualification requirements have been satisfied.

- Reads Act Verified Early Educator Lead
- Reads Act Verified K-3rd Teacher
- Reads Act Verified K-3rd Administrator
- Reads Act Verified Reading Teacher



Early Education:

Endorsement: Reads Act Verified Early Educator Lead

- Two years to complete
- Requirements for the endorsement:
 - Valid teaching certificate
 - Training/Experience:
 - Six credit hours in early childhood education OR
 - Two or more years experience teaching kindergarten or an early education program and successful completion of an evidence-based reading training course approved by the department that includes a summative assessment

K-3 Educators:

Endorsement: Reads Act Verified K-3 Teacher

Endorsement: Reads Act Verified K-3 Administrator

- Phased in over the next two years
- Requirements for the endorsement:
 - Valid teaching certificate
 - Training/Experience:
 - Successful completion of a three-semester hour (or equivalent) evidence-based reading training course approved by the department that includes a summative assessment OR
 - Evidence of obtaining a passing score on a department approved assessment

District Reading Teacher:

Endorsement: Reads Act Verified Reading Teacher

- Two years to complete
- Requirements for the endorsement:
 - Valid teaching certificate
 - Training/Experience:
 - One of the following:
 - Successful completion of a three-semester hour (or equivalent) evidence-based reading training course approved by the department that includes a summative assessment OR
 - Evidence of obtaining a passing score on a department approved assessment
 - Submission of a reading instruction efficiency evaluation form certified by a district representative

Proposed Regulations Evidence-based Reading Exams

- Achieve the required scores or higher on one of the examinations described in the following tables:

Examination	Test Code	Required score
ETS Praxis II Teaching Reading	5204	159
ETA Praxis II Teaching Reading: Elementary	5205	159
ETA Praxis II Teaching Reading: K-12	5206	156
Pearson Foundation of Reading	n/a	240

Proposed Regulations Evidenced- based Reading Training Courses

Evidence-based reading course or training

- phonemic awareness,
- phonics,
- vocabulary development,
- reading fluency,
- oral language skills, and
- reading comprehension

Three semester hours or the equivalent

Includes a summative assessment

Department of Education & Early Development approved

Alaska Reads Act: Regulation Review



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Alaska Reads Act: Regulation Review

- Formal written public comment period
 - Closes on March 3, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.
- Anticipated adoption by the State Board of Education and Early Development on April 19, 2023
- Proposed regulations and summary document:
<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=209771>



Alaska Reads Act: Positions and Funding



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Alaska Reads Act: New Positions

Number of Positions	Position	Status
1	Administrative Officer	Hired
2	Early Learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Administrator • Education Specialist 2 with early literacy focus 	Recruiting
5	Academic Support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Administrator 2 • Education Specialist 2 (Reading Specialists) 	Recruiting
2	Virtual Education: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Specialist 2 	Recruiting

Alaska Reads Act: Funding

(\$ in thousands)

Student and School Achievement

<i>Budget Amount</i>	
Positions	\$591.2
Travel	\$ 6.0
Services	\$179.6
Supplies	\$ 25.0
Total	\$801.8

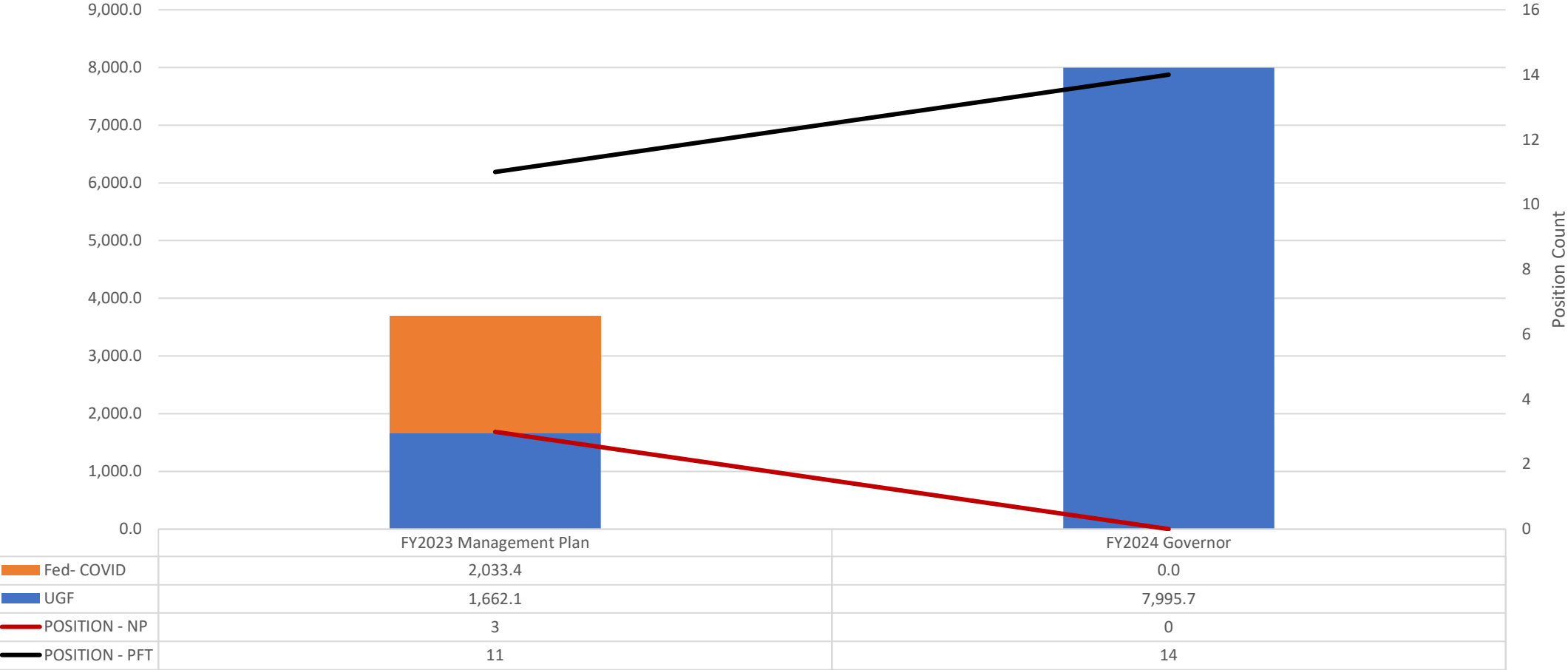
Early Learning

<i>Budget Amount</i>	
Positions	\$294.7
Travel	\$ 75.0
Services	\$ 15.0
Total	\$384.7

Division of Innovation and Education Excellence

(\$ thousands)

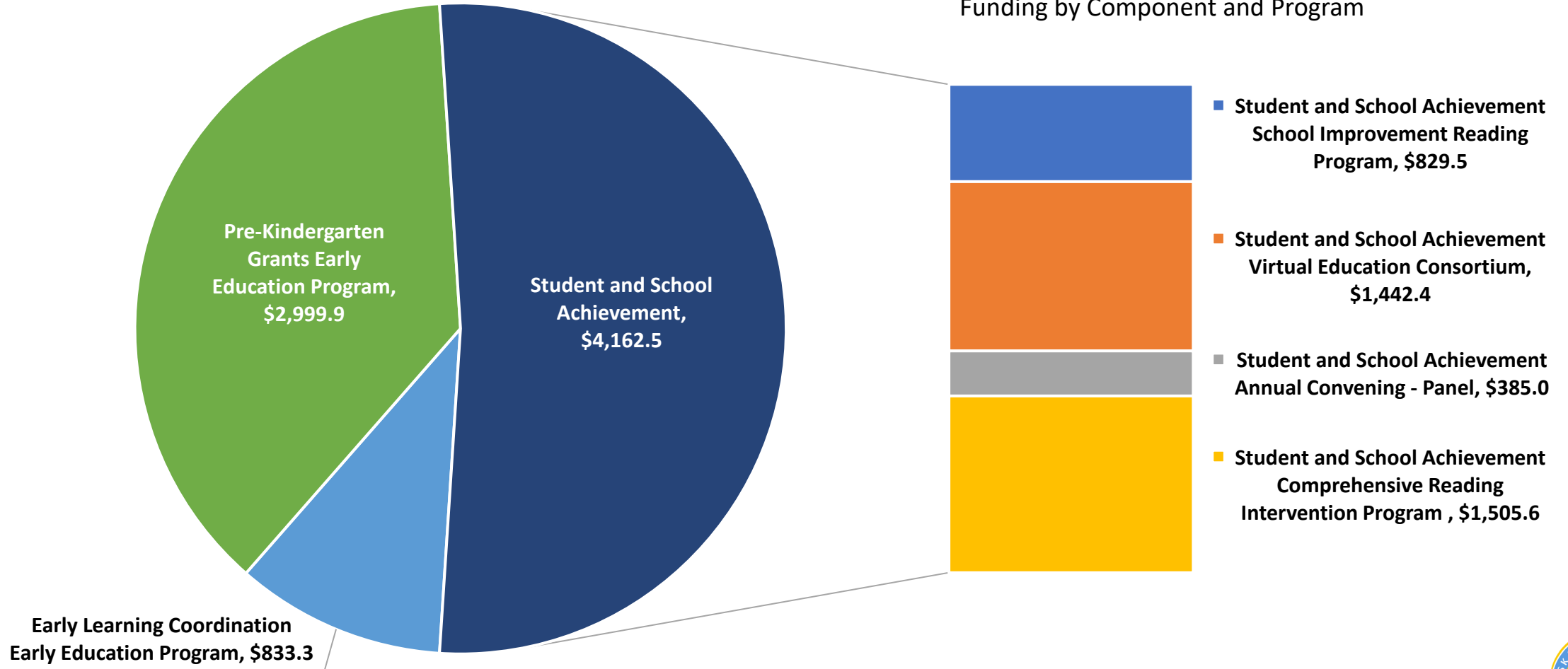
Funding and Position History



Division of Innovation and Education Excellence

(\$ thousands)

FY2024 Governor's Budget
Funding by Component and Program



Significant Changes in FY2024 Governor's Budget

Division of Innovation and Education Excellence

(\$ thousands)

Student and School Achievement

- Year-two implementation of the Alaska Reads Act (HB 114); Total: \$3,360.7 UGF
 - Includes replacement of three temporary positions with three permanent full-time positions

Pre-Kindergarten Grants

- Year-two implementation of the Alaska Reads Act (HB 114); Total: \$2,999.9 UGF

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Stay Connected



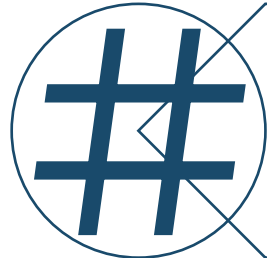
Website

- education.alaska.gov



Phone

- Main Line: (907) 465-2800
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Social Media

- @AlaskaDEED