

Department of Education and Early Development

Senate Bill 82 Targeted and Sustained Investment in Education

Senate Education

Deena Bishop, Ed.D., Commissioner

Karen Morrison, Deputy Commissioner

February 24, 2025



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.



Statutory Duty of the Department

AS 14.03.010. Establishment of the school system.

There is established in the state a system of public schools to be administered and maintained as provided in this title.

Chapter 07. Administration of Public Schools.

AS 14.07.010. Department of Education and Early Development.

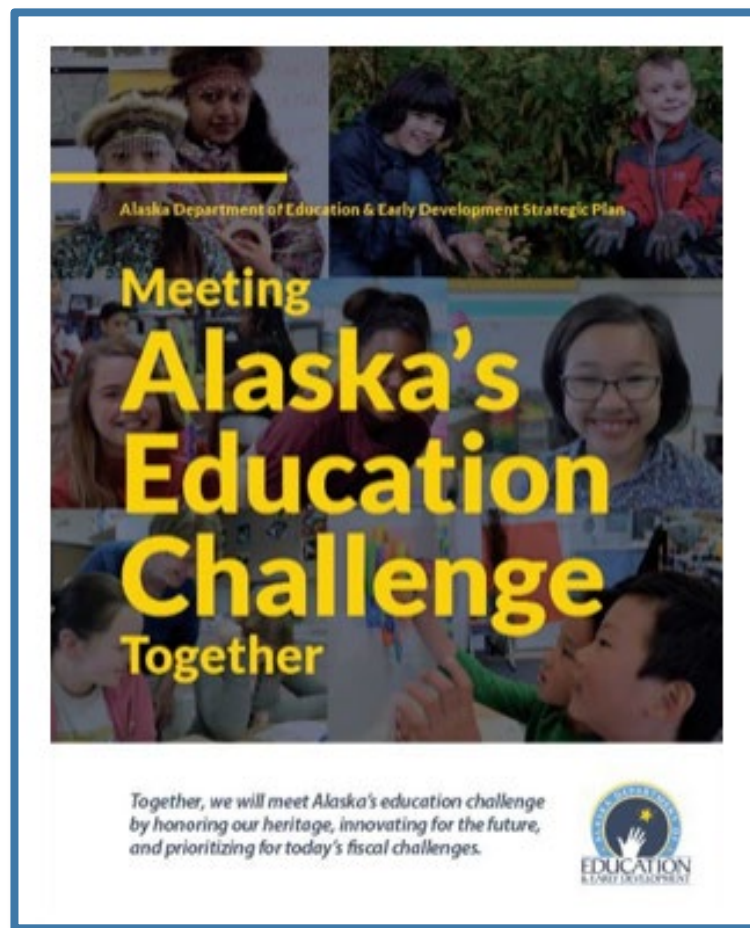
The Department of Education and Early Development includes the commissioner of education and early development, the state Board of Education and Early Development, and the staff necessary to carry out the functions of the department.

AS 14.07.020. Duties of the department.

(a) The department shall

(1) exercise general supervision over the public schools of the state except the University of Alaska;

Alaska's Education Challenge



Five Shared Strategic 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.

Primary Sectional Components

- Open Enrollment
- District Compensation
- Cell Phone Free Schools
- Reading Proficiency and Learning Growth Incentive Grants
- Application for Charter School to the State Board of Education
- Transportation of Students
- School Debt Reimbursement
- Formula Funding for Districts Operating Residential Schools
- Formula Funding for Career and Technical/Special Needs for Districts Operating Correspondence Schools
- Teacher Lump-Sum Payments
- Report to the Legislature

Targeted & Sustained Investment in Education

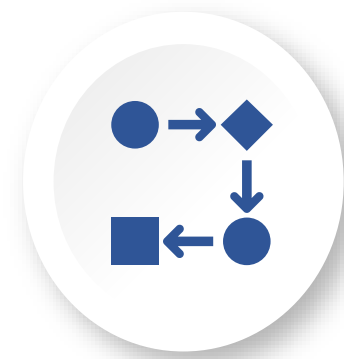


With over \$180 million in recurring education funding through the foundation formula, grants, and direct teacher payments, this legislation provides sustained financial resources with strategic policies to enhance student achievement, strengthen teacher retention, and improve long-term student outcomes while empowering local communities and families.

Open Enrollment



Families will be permitted to enroll their children in a public school outside their assigned district or zoned school, generally during an application period. This gives parents more choice in selecting a school that best fits their child's needs.



School districts set policies for student acceptance, including:

- School capacity
- Placement preferences
- Enrollment data
- School capacities by grade

District Compensation

District Compensation for additional students by a “Spring Count Day”



Any district that has a larger end of year brick and mortar average daily membership (ADM) than established in the fall count will receive a funding increase for the additional students.

Mobilization Fund



The department will establish a **limited** mobilization plan to support transportation for students attending a school that their local bus does not serve.

Cellphone-Free Schools



School districts are required to adopt a policy that prohibits the use of personal mobile communication devices by students during the school day except in the event of:

- An emergency or perceived threat of danger
- When a teacher or administrator grants permission for educational purposes
- When the device is necessary for health or well-being of the student
- If the device is required as part of a student's individualized educational plan

Reading Proficiency and Learning Growth Incentive Grants



School districts are eligible to receive a reading proficiency incentive grant in the amount of \$450 per student

- Each student in grades kindergarten through three who performs at or above grade level on the statewide screening tool or demonstrates learning improvement growth on the statewide screening tool
- Each student in grades four through six who performs at grade-level or demonstrates improvement on Alaska's standards-based assessment in language arts

Application for Charter School to the State Board of Education



The State Board of Education may approve the establishment of a charter school in any school district by an application to the state board or may delegate authority to another government or local agency to support innovative experimental school.

- Local Government Agency
- University of Alaska

Transportation of Students



State transportation funding increases by 20 percent over the current statutory rate.

School Debt Reimbursement



The school bond debt reimbursement program's moratorium will be extended until 2030.

State Funding for Districts Operating Residential Schools



The regional per-pupil monthly stipends in Alaska's long-term and short-term residential schools will increase by 50 percent.

- Southeast Region (Region I) increases from \$1,230 to \$1,845
- Southcentral Region (Region II) increases from \$1,200 to \$1,800
- Interior Region (Region III) increases from \$1,452 to \$2,178
- Southwest Region (Region IV) increases from \$1,509 to \$2,264
- Northern Remote Region (Region V) increases from \$1,776 to \$2,664

Districts Compensated in Formula for Correspondence Schools



The formula funding for special needs and vocational factors will be provided to districts who serve correspondence students.



Correspondence students would count as a whole student with a change from 0.90 full-time equivalent (FTE) to 1.0 FTE.

Increase in Career & Technical Funding



Formula Funding for Career and Technical Education in the vocational factor will increase from 1.015 to 1.04 for all schools.



District career and technical education expenditures will be reported annually on required financial statements.

Teacher Lump-Sum Payments for Recruitment and Retention



A **three-year** pilot program will be established to provide lump sum payments, per the Teacher Retention and Recruitment Playbook, as a workforce incentive for certificated teachers employed full-time in public schools in the amounts of:

- \$5,000
- \$10,000
- \$15,000



Payments would be included in the teachers' compensation for the Teacher Retirement System.

Report to the Legislature



House and Senate Education Committees jointly create a report to be delivered before the first day of the *First Regular Session* of the *35th Legislature*, which will:

- Provide recommendations for any changes to the foundation formula
- Include a survey of each school district's curricula and services
- Provide definition of "accountability" as it applies to student performance
- Recommend metrics for determining school and student performance other than the standardized testing currently used

CONTACT INFORMATION

Deena Bishop, Ed.D., Commissioner

Department of Education and Early Development

deed.commissioner@alaska.gov

(907) 465-2802

Karen Morrison, Deputy Commissioner

Department of Education and Early Development

karen.morrison@alaska.gov

(907) 465-2276

STAY CONNECTED

Find us online:

- Our website: education.alaska.gov
- Facebook and Twitter: @AlaskaDEED

Give us a ring:

- Main line: 907 465 2800
- Teacher Certification: 907 465 2831