

Alaska Reads Act Overview

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Susan McKenzie, Director of Innovation and Education Excellence

February 7, 2023



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

- Priority #1 of Alaska's Education Challenge
- Alaska Reads Act Overview
 - Resources
 - Four Programmatic Parts of the Act
- Questions and Contact Information

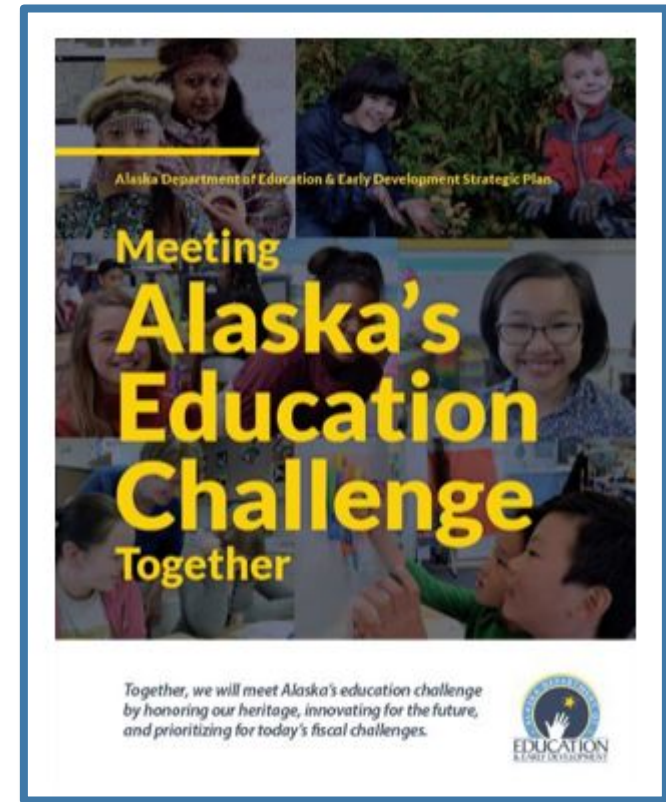


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Strategic Priorities: Alaska's Education Challenge

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

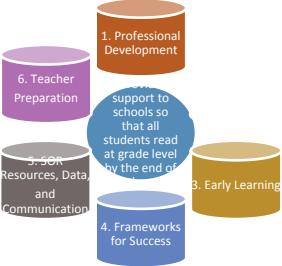
Alaska's Education Challenge

Priority #1: All students will read at grade level by the end of third grade.

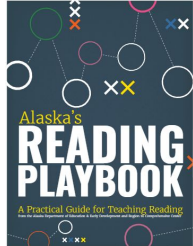
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Alaska Strategic Reading Plan

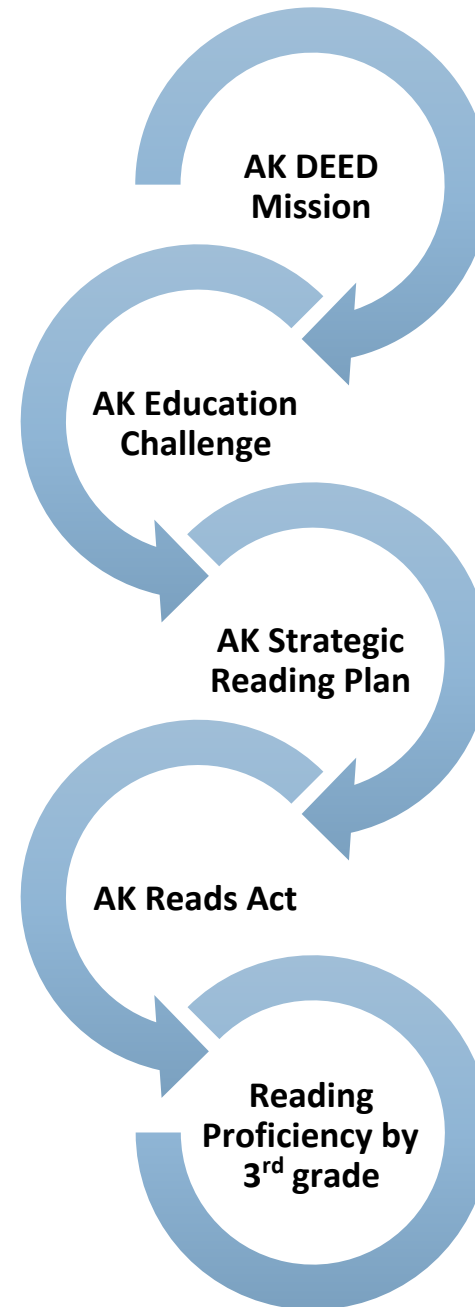
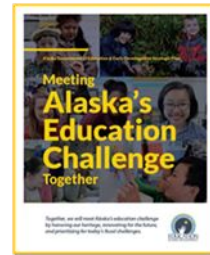


Alaska Reading Playbook



Alaska's Education Challenge:

Priority #1 Aligned Focus



Reads Act Overview



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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

RESOURCES

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

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



Alaska Reads Act Passes Legislation: May 2022



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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

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



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



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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



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
- Intervention must be based on the science of reading
- Grade progression consideration following spring screening for students with reading deficits



Questions:



Send questions to akreads@alaska.gov

Contact Information

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