

A graphic of a spotlight shining from the top left towards the center of the page.

# Alaska School SPOTLIGHT

**Mountain View Elementary, Kenai Alaska**

**January 2023**

*This month DEED is highlighting Kenai's Mountain View Elementary which was highlighted in the Peninsula Clarion news in December. DEED reached out to Assistant Principal, Hannah Dolphin, to learn more about their reading instruction improvement journey.*

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Our journey started last year with our interventionist, Katie Schneider asking Karl and I about getting LETRS training for our staff. Katie and I dove into researching the program and writing up a pitch to our district to fund our staff (or the whole district) to participate in LETRS training. Karl and I advocated strongly with district office staff (to the point where they may have avoided us at meetings). Our director of Elementary Education, Eric Pederson and Federal Programs Coordinator, Jessica Scogin were patient with our frequent pitches and requests and listened to us throughout the 21-22 school year.

In April of 2022, a large majority of our district's administration and school administrators attended the Alaska Science of Reading Symposium. After gaining knowledge there, our initiative was a go! Our district offered LETRS Training to administrators and teachers to begin during the 22-23 school year. Many staff members took advantage of the LETRS training offered through the state as well. Right now, we have 10 staff members actively participating in LETRS training.

At Mountain View, we universally screen all students using AIMSweb and MAP in the Fall, Winter, and Spring to identify students who are at risk or in need of more individualized support in math and/or reading. After we have identified students who are below the 25th percentile in reading, we do a diagnostic assessment, using a phonics screener, on each student to target their specific skill deficit and use that information to decide on the best intervention to support them. Each student who is receiving a math or reading intervention is progress monitored weekly or every other week, this data is used to monitor the progress of students and determine whether or not the intervention is working.



**Our Mission: An excellent education for every student every day.**

We didn't stop there. The majority of our primary staff advocated strongly for more early literacy curriculum supports. Specifically, they wanted more explicit phonics instruction. Katie Schneider dove in to help again, and had researched both West Virginia Phonics and UFLI (University of Florida Literacy Institute). With support from our district, we purchased UFLI manuals and materials for our intervention staff, our Title I staff, and our K-3 teachers. Our K-2 teachers are also using Heggerty for phonemic awareness. We are in the process of compiling a school-wide decodable library using our Title I funds.

We are passionate about reading instruction here at Mountain View Elementary and are excited to continue our journey.

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*Thank you Assistant Principal Dolphin for sharing about all of this hard work, and congratulations to Mountain View Elementary on its amazing journey toward reading proficiency for all students! DEED appreciates you sharing your story with us!*

Read the Peninsula Clarion article here:

["Mountain View Students Demo Literacy Curriculum at School Board Meeting"](#)



Mountain View Elementary School teacher Kristin Perkins demonstrates with students “phonemic awareness” with practices from Heggerty during a board of education meeting on Monday, Dec. 5, 2022, in Soldotna, Alaska. (Ashlyn O’Hara/Peninsula Clarion)



Mountain View Elementary School teacher Callie Giordano demonstrates with students “word building” with practices from the University of Florida Literacy Institute during a board of education meeting on Monday, Dec. 5, 2022, in Soldotna, Alaska. (Ashlyn O’Hara/Peninsula Clarion)