

# Alaska Reads Act Early Education Program Standards

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development  
Division of Innovation and Education Excellence  
Deborah Riddle, Division Operations Manager

January 12, 2023




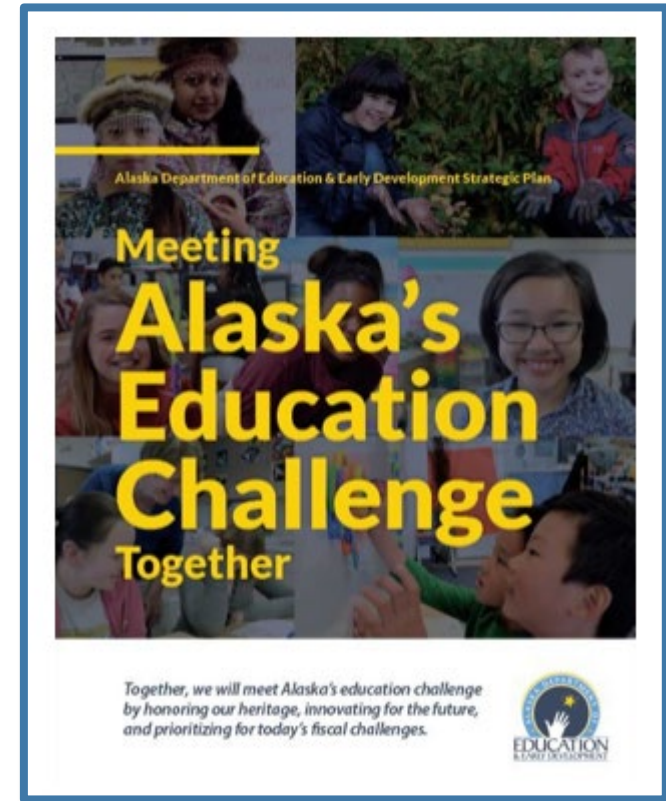
# Mission, Vision, and Purpose

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 <b>information, resources, and leadership</b> to support an excellent education for every student every day.

# 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](http://education.alaska.gov/akedchallenge)

# Agenda

- Details of Alaska Reads Act webinars
- Alaska Reads Act Overview
- Parents as Teachers Overview
- Early Education Grants
- Questions



**Alaska Reads**  
#akreads



# Details

# 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



# Communication

- Use the chat for questions.
  - Zoom name reflects you and your district/organization
  - Questions addressed as time permits
  - FAQ document
- Send questions to [akreads@alaska.gov](mailto:akreads@alaska.gov)
- Request presentation for your district
- Reading Newsletter
- Alaska Reads Website ([education.alaska.gov/akreads](https://education.alaska.gov/akreads))
  - Weekly updates
- Planning in-person meetings around the state
- *THANK YOU to many who provided feedback*





*Please  
remember...*

Regulations are in draft form. The final adopted regulations may result in some changes to what will be presented in each webinar. Thanks for your patience as we work to balance processes with stakeholder communication.

**DRAFT.**



# Alaska Reads Act Overview

# Early Learning Sections

- Parents as Teachers Program
- Early Education Grant Program
- ✓ **Early Education Program Standards**
- Requirements to receive 0.5 ADM

# Alaska Reads Act Components



**Alaska Reads**  
#akreads

## Reads Act Programmatic Elements:

- 1) District Reading Improvement
- 2) Department Reading Program
- 3) Early Education Programs and Parents as Teachers
- 4) Virtual Education

## Other Components:

- 1) Educator preparation requirements
- 2) Reporting and data collections

# Early Education Program Standards: Overview



**Alaska Reads**  
#akreads

# Contact Information

**Supanika Ordoñez, Education Specialist II**

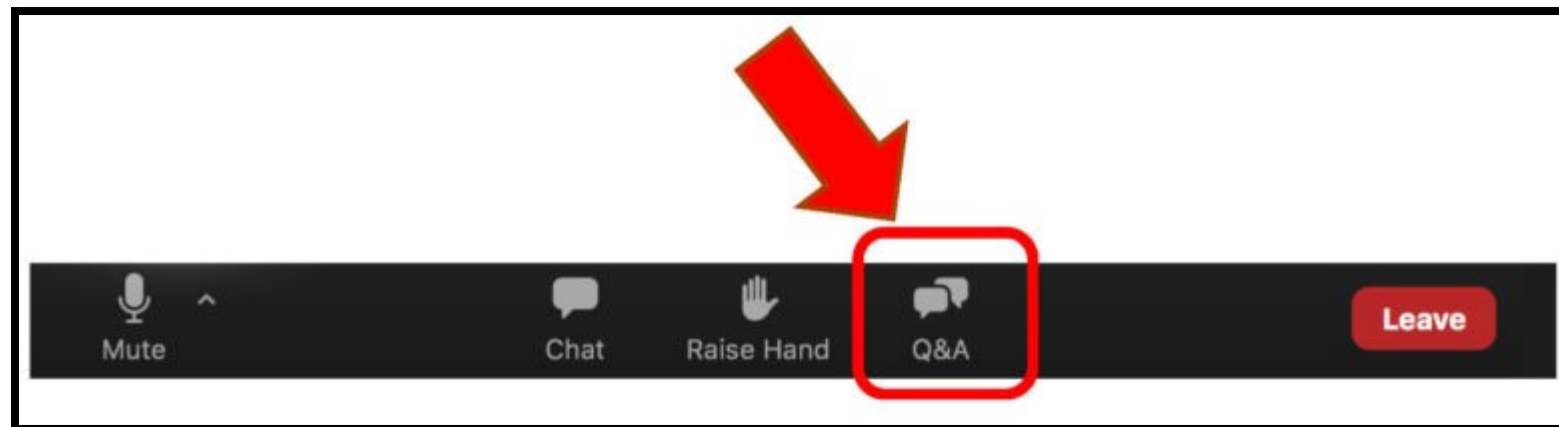
Supanika.ordonez@alaska.gov

(907) 465-8707



# Questions?

- Please put Questions into the Q&A tab
  - Do not put questions in the chat
- Questions will be answered at the end



# House Bill 114

Early education standards:

AS 14.07.165(a)(5)(A)

The board shall adopt standards for a locally designed, evidenced-based program that meets Head Start Program Performance Standards and other federal standards for early education programs to receive federal funding.

- Requirements for a teacher in charge of the program
- Developmentally appropriate objectives for children four and five years old



# Early Education Advisory Committee (EEAC)

The EEAC is an advisory committee of 10 early childhood practitioners and 5 State of Alaska staff

## *Purpose*

Provide feedback to the DEED Early Learning Team in order to provide different perspectives as the team creates implementation strategies and regulations related to DEED Early Childhood Programs.



# Proposed Early Education Program Standards Workbook

## Workbook Instructions

<i>The left column holds each proposed early education program standards.</i>	<i>The right column is for comments, suggested edits, questions, and notes.</i>
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## Early Education Program Standards Purpose

<p>Early education programs must provide high-quality early education and child development services, including for children with disabilities, that promote children's cognitive, social, and emotional growth for later success in school. An early education program must embed responsive and effective teacher-child interactions. All programs must implement a research-based curriculum, and screening and assessment procedures that support individualization and growth in the areas of development described in the Alaska Early Learning Guidelines and support family engagement in children's learning and development. A program must deliver developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate learning experiences inclusive of language, literacy, mathematics, social and emotional development, approaches to learning, science, physical skills, and creative arts.</p>	
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# Development Process

- **May 2022**
  - Alaska Reads Act passed
  - Requires Early Education Program standards
- **August-December 2022**
  - Early Education Advisory Committee (EEAC) created
  - Standards drafted and review EEAC
- **February 2, 2023**
  - State Board of Education released Reads Act Regulations for public comment
- **March 3, 2023**
  - Written Public Comment Period Ended
- **April 19, 2023**
  - State Board of Education Regulation Hearing 3-4pm



# Summary of Sections

- Learning Environment
- Social and Emotional Support
- Curricula
- Screening & Developmental Evaluation
- Assessment
- Family Engagement
- Dual Language Learners
- Coaching
- Continuous Quality Improvement



# Learning Environment Overview

- Classroom set-up
  - Materials/Equipment
  - Accessible
  - Schedule/Routines
- Class size
- Day in session requirements
- Snacks/Mealtimes
- Physical Activity



# Social and Emotional Support Overview

- Mental Health Consultation
- Prohibition of Expulsion
- Restriction on Suspension



# Curricula Overview

- Developmentally Appropriate/Evidence-based Curricula
  - Includes Preschool Science of Reading supplemental curricula from DEED approved list
- Aligned to Alaska Early Learning Guidelines
- Support for staff
- Adaptions



# Screening & Developmental Evaluation

- Time-frame
- Requirement to use statewide developmental screening tool
- Communication with family
- Referral





# Assessment

- Requirement to utilize Statewide Assessment tool
  - Teaching Strategies GOLD
- Administer Fall and Spring checkpoints annually
- Regular use of data for planning



# Family Engagement

- Recognize importance of families
- Responsive respectful relationships
- Integration of cultural background, traditional values, and language.
- Regular communication
- Opportunities for involvement



# Dual Language Learners

- Support dual acquisition or full immersion
- Use of qualified bilingual staff, contractor, consultant, or volunteer



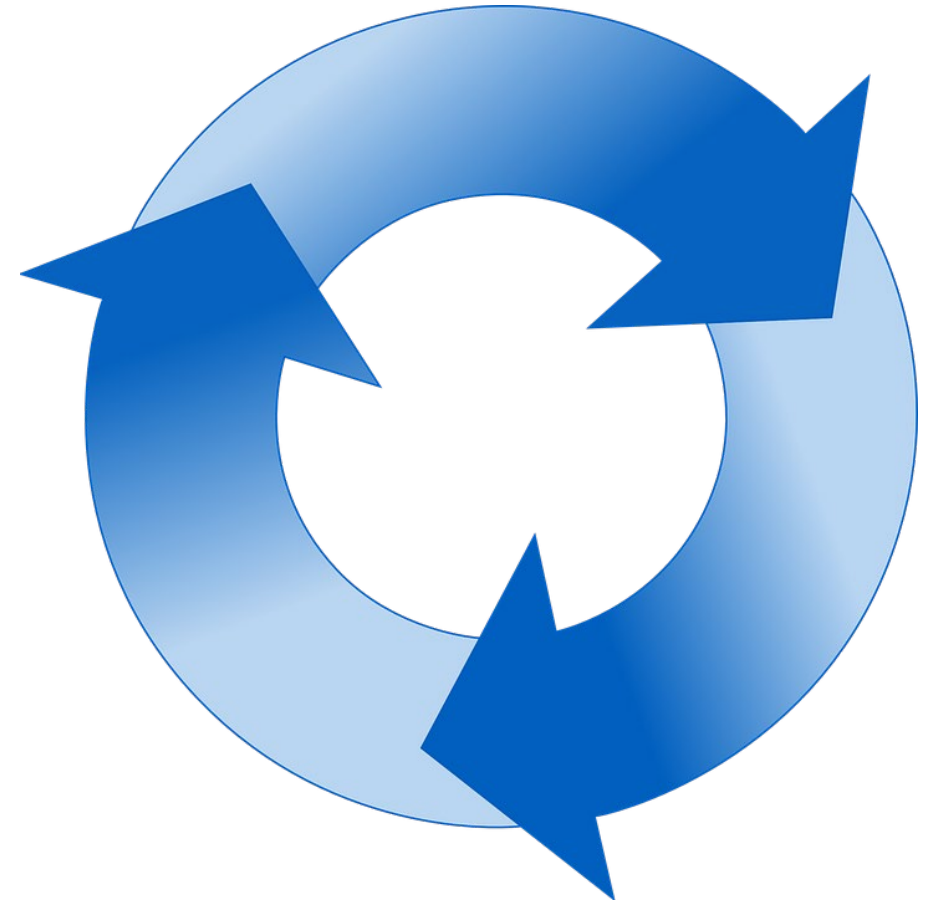
# Coaching

- Qualified coaching staff
- Coaching supports for all teachers
- Non-punitive



# Continuous Quality Improvement

- Collect and analyze program data
- Self-identify strengths and needs
- Develop and implement plans
- Annually evaluate progress



# Early Education Program Standards Evidence

## Example

### I. Teaching and the Learning Environment

(I.a.i) developmentally appropriate schedules, lesson plans, and indoor and outdoor learning experiences that provide opportunities for choice, play, exploration, and experimentation among a variety of learning, sensory, and motor experiences

Evidence: Lesson plans outlining a variety of learning environments.

#### Attached Documents:

- (I.a.i.1) Annual Scope and sequence

# Connections to Reads Act



- Districts participating in the 3-year District-wide Early Education Program grants are working to achieving standards by end of grant
  - Districts who do not meet the standards at the end of the 3 years may apply for a remediation grant
  - If a District does not meet the standards after the remediation grant, they may apply for one additional remediation grant
- Districts who meet the Early Education Program standards can apply for approval to receive 0.5 ADM





# Early Learning Committee

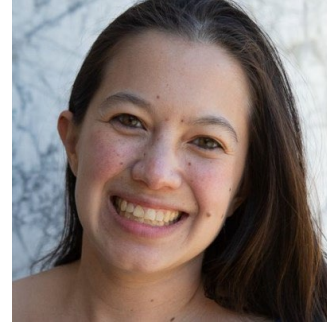
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**Deb Riddle**  
Division Operations  
Manager  
CHAIR



**Kristen Spencer**  
Early Learning Specialist



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Early Learning Specialist



**Tracy Parker**  
Reading Specialist

# Contact Information

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# Stay Connected



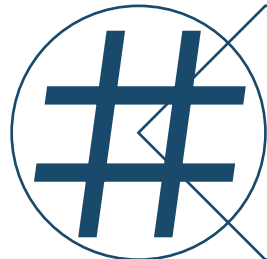
## Website

- [education.alaska.gov](http://education.alaska.gov)



## Phone

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

- @AlaskaDEED