

State of Alaska FY2014 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Education and Early Development Teaching and Learning Support Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary

Teaching and Learning Support Results Delivery Unit

Contribution to Department's Mission

This Results Delivery Unit supports the mission of the Department of Education and Early Development as defined in the department level performance management model. Please refer to the information provided under the Department of Education and Early Development.

Core Services

- Federal program funding and compliance
- Academic standards, academic assessment and accountability
- State system of support to increase school effectiveness
- Active partnerships

Major RDU Accomplishments in 2012

- Conducted multiple meetings with stakeholders from industry, higher education, and K-12 educators to review and solicit public comment regarding the revised Alaska content standards in reading, writing and math from grades K through 12;
- Following the board adoption of the revised Alaska content standards in reading, writing and math, assembled a department team to develop and provide technical assistance to school districts on the implementation of the standards;
- Developed and commenced distribution of “I am ready” literature, aligned to the content standards and Early Learning Guidelines, that describes what young children should know to be prepared for school, and includes parent and caregiver activities to carry out with children;
- Conducted several meetings with Alaska stakeholders from the Teacher Quality Working Group to review methods to improve the quality of the teacher and school leader workforce, and developed a proposal to revise state regulations on teacher/leader evaluation, which were brought to the State Board of Education & Early Development;
- Worked with school districts to create the Alaska Learning Network, a partnership including all Alaska school districts, to develop and administer efficient Alaska distance education courses;
- Continued to implement the Alaska Performance Scholarship (APS) in collaboration with the Alaska Commission on Postsecondary Education, the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, and Alaska school districts, resulting in initial APS awards of approximately \$3 million to over 800 Alaska high school 2011 graduates pursuing postsecondary education and training in Alaska;
- Awarded grants for the new state Parents-as-Teachers program, and issued new grants for the Pre-Kindergarten Program; and,
- Continued compliance with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) federal programs requirements and completion of the ESEA waiver request.

Key RDU Challenges

1. Academic growth and proficiency for all students in reading, writing and math, and improving the graduation rate

Parents, community leaders, state legislators and many other Alaskans want to know about the quality of education in their local schools. They also want to be able to improve the schools that need help and to ensure that each and every school is accountable for producing results. The school reform effort to implement a standards-based system in public education, which includes a robust reporting system for results, has great promise in helping close the achievement gap among our students. The State of Alaska has worked with local districts to ensure curriculum and assessments are aligned to standards. The continued efforts to ensure students receive instruction that meets their needs, and helps to improve achievement when a learner is struggling, remain a challenge. The State System of

Support (SSOS) works with schools struggling with student achievement, as well as all schools as they implement the new content standards, to provide support for increasing student achievement.

2. Implement new state content standards and refine state assessments

Statewide Assessment System

The State of Alaska has adopted a comprehensive assessment system for all students that includes a developmental profile for children entering kindergarten or first grade, standards-based assessments for grades three through ten, and a High School Graduation Qualifying Examination. This assessment system provides information to hold schools and communities accountable for the academic achievement of children. Each year, all schools report assessment information to their communities regarding their progress.

The current assessment system, developed in 2005, remains in place. With the adoption of revised Alaska Content Standards by the State Board of Education and Early Development in June 2012, the department has started to prepare for the development of new assessments to implement in either the spring of 2015 or 2016. Refining assessments or procuring an assessment that can assess the students based on the new standards, and provide information for accountability and instructional improvement, is a significant challenge to be met over the next few years. Change in assessment systems takes multiple years, and requires significant stakeholder involvement to positively impact student achievement. Once a new assessment system is in place the system will require continuous development to refresh items on the tests so that student performance is not about knowing specific items as much as knowing the standards.

3. Implementation of changes, based on the application for a state waiver from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as authorized by No Child Left Behind (NCLB), to the school accountability system

The federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation, which amended the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), required that each state implement a Statewide Accountability Plan to measure whether a school is making progress. The United States Department of Education invited states to apply for waivers from ESEA over the past year, and Alaska submitted a waiver in September 2012. The waiver includes three major components:

1. College and career-ready standards for all students;
2. State-developed, differentiated accountability system for schools, including recognition and support; and,
3. Supporting effective instruction and leadership.

The new Alaska content standards, and the assessment of those standards, will address the first component of the waiver. The second component of the waiver changes the accountability system from one based heavily on the test scores from the Standards Based Assessments to a system that accounts for attendance, graduation rate, preparing students for college and career success, and accounts for growth in performance from one year to the next. Finally, the third component of the waiver includes a significant change to the way teachers and principals are evaluated, requiring the use of student learning data in those evaluations. Each aspect of the waiver provides for improvement in our accountability structure, but will be a challenge to implement as we work to engage all stakeholders and create a vastly different and more appropriate way to hold schools accountable for student achievement.

Supporting these components includes maintaining support for the Alaska Statewide Mentoring Project and the Alaska Administrator Coaching Project; which will result in decreases in turnover of Alaska educators and improved student achievement.

It also includes sponsoring professional development for the implementation of the new content standards and statewide literacy plan. As well as continued development of a statewide longitudinal data system that will expand the focus from P12 to P20/workforce.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2014

- Implement Alaska's new English language arts and mathematics standards, moving all schools from awareness of the standards to transition and implementation of the standards;
- Develop a framework for state assessments of the content standards in English language arts and mathematics;
- Continue phased implementation of high school curriculum changes to best prepare students for Alaska

Performance Scholarship eligibility;

- Support districts as they implement new teacher and principal evaluation systems to incorporate student learning data, and provide for a stronger teacher and leader workforce;
- Provide focused district and school improvement support services, and increasing concentration on effective reading programs, including a new K-3 literacy project;
- Facilitate the implementation of a four-year 1:1 statewide technology plan;
- Increase support to the Alaska Learning Network; and,
- Provide support for a program to increase the statewide graduation rate (Jobs for America's Graduates).

Contact Information
<p>Contact: Paul Prussing, Acting Director Phone: (907) 465-8721 Fax: (907) 465-6760 E-mail: paul.prussing@alaska.gov</p>

**Teaching and Learning Support
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2012 Actuals				FY2013 Management Plan				FY2014 Governor			
	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
Formula Expenditures None.												
Non-Formula Expenditures												
Student and School Achievement	11,662.4	10,424.3	160,364.9	182,451.6	12,764.0	700.3	161,558.4	175,022.7	19,865.6	700.3	153,940.2	174,506.1
State System of Support	2,061.9	0.0	0.0	2,061.9	1,950.0	0.0	0.0	1,950.0	1,950.7	0.0	0.0	1,950.7
Statewide Mentoring	3,150.0	0.0	0.0	3,150.0	3,000.0	0.0	0.0	3,000.0	3,000.0	0.0	0.0	3,000.0
Teacher Certification	593.2	0.0	0.0	593.2	896.5	16.4	0.0	912.9	896.5	16.4	0.0	912.9
Child Nutrition	83.7	0.0	51,861.7	51,945.4	100.0	0.0	50,588.3	50,688.3	100.0	0.0	52,588.3	52,688.3
Early Learning Coordination	10,413.3	0.0	109.8	10,523.1	9,492.7	0.0	273.2	9,765.9	9,492.7	0.0	273.2	9,765.9
Pre-Kindergarten Grants	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2,800.0	0.0	0.0	2,800.0	2,480.0	0.0	0.0	2,480.0
Totals	27,964.5	10,424.3	212,336.4	250,725.2	31,003.2	716.7	212,419.9	244,139.8	37,785.5	716.7	206,801.7	245,303.9

Teaching and Learning Support
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2013 Management Plan to FY2014 Governor

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>Unrestricted Gen (UGF)</u>	<u>Designated Gen (DGF)</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2013 Management Plan	29,681.0	1,322.2	716.7	212,419.9	244,139.8
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:					
-Student and School Achievement	-1,012.9	0.0	-100.0	-7,618.2	-8,731.1
-State System of Support	0.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.7
-Child Nutrition	0.0	0.0	0.0	2,000.0	2,000.0
-Pre-Kindergarten Grants	-800.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-800.0
Proposed budget decreases:					
-Student and School Achievement	0.0	-5.5	0.0	0.0	-5.5
Proposed budget increases:					
-Student and School Achievement	8,120.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	8,220.0
-Pre-Kindergarten Grants	480.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	480.0
FY2014 Governor	36,468.8	1,316.7	716.7	206,801.7	245,303.9