

State of Alaska FY2017 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 Measures. 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 2015

- Worked with districts directly and sponsored the Teaching and Learning Institute to support the implementation of the Alaska content standards, educator evaluation requirements, and the Alaska Measures of Progress assessment;
- Coordinated with partner organizations to sponsor implementation and leadership training with Alaska stakeholders to implement the educator evaluation requirements, which incorporate student learning data into the evaluation process;
- Successfully implemented the first administration of the Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) assessment, in partnership with local school districts, successfully moving from paper pencil assessments to electronic testing with almost all schools and students;
- Worked with school districts and the University of Alaska-Southeast (UAS), to strengthen the Alaska Learning Network, a partnership that includes all Alaska school districts and UAS, to develop and administer efficient Alaska distance-delivery education courses; and,
- 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.

Key RDU Challenges

1. Academic growth in language arts and mathematics, to prepare all students to graduate and be college-and-career ready.

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 higher standards, with college and career ready expectations, offers great promise in preparing all students to graduate college and be career ready, and therefore allow students to enter post-secondary options without requiring additional remedial training or courses. The State of Alaska works with local school districts to ensure their locally adopted curriculum and instructional programs 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, remains a challenge. The department works with schools struggling with student achievement, in addition to all schools as they implement the content standards, to provide support for increasing student achievement to be demonstrated on the Alaska Measures of Progress assessment.

A key challenge in implementing improvements in language arts, and specifically in reading, is the lack of a statewide program to support early literacy screening assessments and professional development for educators on improving instructional practices. While many districts may support these activities at the local level, there is no coordinated statewide program supporting essential literacy development in the early grades. Additionally, there are few

opportunities for students in some areas of the state for higher-level course work to improve their achievement and for schools trying to provide distance education to those students.

2. Fully implement assessments aligned to the language arts and mathematics standards adopted in June 2012.

The State of Alaska has adopted a comprehensive assessment system for all students that includes standards-based assessments to determine student performance relative to the Alaska content standards. The State Board of Education and Early Development adopted new standards in June 2012, and the department works with districts to support them as they align curriculum, materials and instruction to teach those standards. New assessments, the Alaska Measures of Progress, were implemented in the spring of 2015 by the department to assess those standards. These assessments will provide information to support curriculum and instructional reviews and therefore teaching and learning, and to hold schools and communities accountable for the academic achievement of children. In the coming years the department will continue the implementation of this assessment, primarily as a computer based assessment, with additional dynamic information being provided to schools and districts regarding student performance. Each year, all schools report assessment information to their communities regarding their progress.

3. Implementation of the school accountability system

Alaska Statute and the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) legislation, which amended the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), requires that each state implement a plan to measure whether a school is making progress. Alaska received a waiver from the most burdensome parts of ESEA in May 2013, and was granted approval of a renewal in 2015. The waiver includes three major components:

- a. College and career-ready standards for all students;
- b. State-developed differentiated accountability system for schools, including recognition and support; and,
- c. Support for effective instruction and leadership.

The Alaska content standards, and assessing 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 on the Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) assessment. As AMP is fully implemented, which started in spring 2015, components of the school accountability system will require re-design to accurately reflect school performance and incentivize improved effective practices. 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. The goal behind changes to the evaluation system are one component to the priority of improving teacher quality, recruitment and retention. Each aspect of the waiver provides for improvement in our accountability structure, but is a challenge to implement as the department works to engage all stakeholders and create a vastly different and more appropriate way to hold schools accountable for student achievement.

As the new assessment system, the Alaska Measures of Progress, is implemented, adjustments will be required in the accountability system. These adjustments will be both technical and policy challenges. The department will also need to work closely with districts as they determine how to use the results of the assessments and the accountability system in their local teacher evaluation and school improvement planning efforts.

The lack of coaching support for new principals and superintendents impedes their ability to quickly develop an understanding of issues and key components related to the school accountability system, which is necessary knowledge to improve the performance in schools.

The development of policies and procedures to incorporate student learning data into administrators and teachers' evaluations is a complex undertaking. Districts will continue to seek assistance from the department for technical assistance; as well as, training and support for their educators on the student learning object approach to managing the student learning data component of their evaluation systems.

Recruitment and retention of educators is an ongoing challenge in Alaska, especially in our more rural, remote areas. High turnover rates slows Alaska districts progress toward full implementation of our new initiatives.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2017

- Implement adjustments to the Alaska School Performance Index, to better measure school performance, that are coherent with the Alaska Measures of Progress (AMP) assessment;
- Support school districts in the utilization of the information to be gained from the AMP assessment support adjustments to locally adopted curriculum and instructional programs to improve student achievement;
- Implement the state assessments by incorporating open ended complex problems relative to the content standards in English language arts and mathematics, thereby providing more information through AMP on student performance;
- Support school districts as they fully implement their new teacher and principal evaluation systems to incorporate student learning data, and thereby improving educator quality, recruitment and retention of the Alaska educator workforce;
- Provide focused, coordinated and coherent district and school improvement support services to create more effective educational programs and improve student achievement;
- Provide support for increasing the statewide graduation rate;
- Fewer partnership opportunities with organizations. As the department identifies reductions the first priority is to examine statutory requirements, and advance those reductions that are not necessary to meet those requirements. Many of the partnership activities go beyond what the department is required to do, and have little performance accountability to either the department or the legislature; and,
- The Alaska Pre-Kindergarten Program (Pre-K) will not continue in FY2017. The program currently serves a small portion of Alaska's four and five-year olds who do not meet the cutoff date for kindergarten entry and has never expanded beyond the pilot-size population, so does not address statewide needs.

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

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2015 Actuals				FY2016 Management Plan				FY2017 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	12,428.5	1,081.2	131,695.2	145,204.9	7,538.1	700.3	153,969.0	162,207.4	7,019.3	675.3	153,969.0	161,663.6
AK Native Science & Engineering	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1,385.2	0.0	0.0	1,385.2	1,000.0	0.0	0.0	1,000.0
Alaska Learning Network	850.0	0.0	0.0	850.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
State System of Support	1,962.5	0.0	0.0	1,962.5	1,976.4	0.0	0.0	1,976.4	1,976.4	0.0	0.0	1,976.4
OWL	740.5	0.0	0.0	740.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Statewide Mentoring	2,300.0	0.0	0.0	2,300.0	1,500.0	0.0	0.0	1,500.0	1,500.0	0.0	0.0	1,500.0
Live Homework Help	138.2	0.0	0.0	138.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Teacher Certification	716.6	0.0	0.0	716.6	913.9	16.4	0.0	930.3	913.9	16.4	0.0	930.3
Child Nutrition	101.8	0.0	61,618.2	61,720.0	103.9	0.0	52,705.8	52,809.7	103.9	0.0	63,705.8	63,809.7
Early Learning Coordination	9,184.7	0.0	85.0	9,269.7	8,392.4	0.0	278.5	8,670.9	7,572.4	0.0	278.5	7,850.9
Pre-Kindergarten Grants	1,971.5	0.0	0.0	1,971.5	2,000.0	0.0	0.0	2,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unallocated Appropriation	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-329.8	0.0	0.0	-329.8
Totals	30,394.3	1,081.2	193,398.4	224,873.9	23,809.9	716.7	206,953.3	231,479.9	19,756.1	691.7	217,953.3	238,401.1

**Teaching and Learning Support
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2016 Management Plan to FY2017 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>
FY2016 Management Plan	21,370.8	2,439.1	716.7	206,953.3	231,479.9
One-time items:					
-Student and School Achievement	0.0	0.0	-100.0	0.0	-100.0
Adjustments which continue current level of service:					
-Student and School Achievement	0.0	0.0	75.0	0.0	75.0
-Unallocated Appropriation	-329.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	-329.8
Proposed budget increases:					
-Student and School Achievement	0.0	31.2	0.0	0.0	31.2
-Child Nutrition	0.0	0.0	0.0	11,000.0	11,000.0
Proposed budget decreases:					
-Student and School Achievement	-25.0	-525.0	0.0	0.0	-550.0
-AK Native Science & Engineering	-385.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	-385.2
-Early Learning Coordination	-820.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-820.0
-Pre-Kindergarten Grants	-2,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-2,000.0
FY2017 Governor	17,810.8	1,945.3	691.7	217,953.3	238,401.1