

Alaska Education Challenge

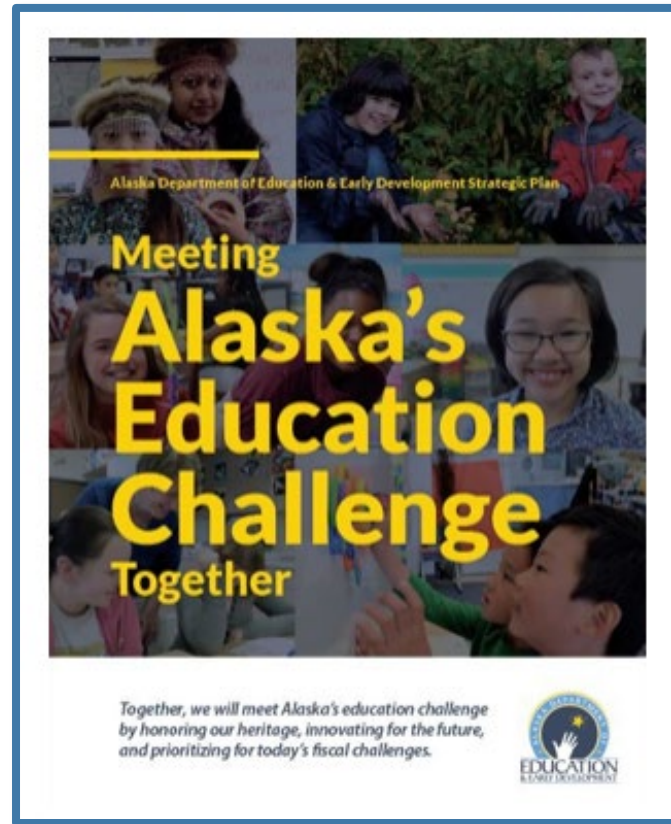
Review Update

Deena Bishop, Ed.D., Commissioner

October 8, 2025



Alaska's Education Challenge



Five Shared Strategic 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.

Alaska's Education Challenge Background & Timeline



SEPTEMBER 2016

The State Board of Education and Early Development, in collaboration with Commissioner Dr. Michael Johnson, established five strategic priorities aimed at improving public education for all students in Alaska.



FEBRUARY 2017

DEED released a public survey to gather input from Alaskans on priorities for public education reform. Nearly 1,400 Alaskans in 109 communities submitted over 18,000 ideas for topics to be considered during Alaska's Education Challenge



OCTOBER 2017

The State Board held a work session to review and discuss the 13 recommendations developed by the AEC committees.



Governor Bill Walker, in his State of the State address, emphasized the need to improve public education in Alaska, which led to the formal launch of the Alaska's Education Challenge (AEC).

JANUARY 2017



Commissioner Johnson and the State Board formally kicked off Alaska's Education Challenge. Nearly 100 Alaskans from diverse backgrounds convened to develop recommendations aligned with the five strategic priorities.

APRIL 2017



The State Board approved the Alaska's Education Challenge Report to Governor Walker.

DECEMBER 2017

SBOE Subcommittee Members & Staff

- **Support ALL Students to Read at Grade Level by Grade 3**
 - SBOE Members: **Kathryn McCollum**, Pamela Dupras, & Amber Sherman
 - DEED Staff : **Kathy Moffitt** & Kari Shaginoff
- **Increase Career, Technical, and Culturally Relevant Education**
 - SBOE Members: **LTC James Fowley**, Barbara Tyndall, & Kimberly Bergey
 - DEED Staff : **Brad Billings**, Kelly Manning, & Monica Goyette
- **Tribal Compacting/Closing the Achievement Gap**
 - SBOE Members: **Pamela Dupras**, James Fields, & Kimberly Bergey
 - DEED Staff : **Deb Riddle**, Cheryl Dewitt, & Kari Shaginoff
- **Prepare, Attract, and Retain Effective Education Staff**
 - SBOE Members: **James Fields**, Sally Stockhausen, & LTC James Fowley
 - DEED Staff : **Kelly Manning**, Colleen Walker, & Monica Goyette
- **Improve Safety and Well-Being through School Partnerships**
 - SBOE Members: **Barbara Tyndall**, Kathryn McCollum, & Amber Sherman
 - DEED Staff: **Kelly Manning**, Sharon Fischel, & Pat Sidmore

Alaska Education Challenge Review Timeline

- **March 2025 – Alaska Education Challenge Review Request** – Chair Fields requested DEED to develop a review process
- **July 1, 2025 – SBOE Meeting** – DEED reviewed proposed plan and timeline with the full Board
- **July 2025 – Individual Committee Meetings** – Committees reviewed AEC goals, baseline data, and identified desired metrics and progress
- **August–September 2025** – DEED assembled data and drafted progress summaries
- **October 8, 2025 – SBOE Committee Meetings** – DEED teams presented progress summaries; and gathered committee feedback and recommendations
- **October–November 2025** – DEED will refine and finalize progress summaries based on committee recommendations and compiles one report
- **December 3, 2025 – SBOE Meeting** – DEED will present the final report to the full Board and seek direction on next steps

Board Discussion and Feedback

As we prepare the final Alaska Education Challenge report for the December Board meeting, we welcome your reflections and recommendations.