

**Department of Education Early Development
FY26 Midyear Status Report**

Item No.	Appropriation / Allocation	Description	Amount / Fund Source	LFD Questions
1	K-12 Aid to School Districts / Foundation Program	FY2026 Estimated Foundation Program Expenditures from Public Education Fund	\$1,082,136.6 Gen Fund (UGF) \$35,070.0 Pub School (Other)	Please provide the school district names and funding amounts for early education programs receiving 1/2 ADM funding under AS 14.17.500(d). How much funding was appropriated to the public education fund for this program, and what does the agency intend to do with unspent funds?
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>The DEED-approved districts operating district-wide early education programs (0.5 ADM) are listed in DEED's 0.5 ADM funding summary document (available on DEED's website at https://education.alaska.gov/ELearning/pdf/2025-08-22_Summary_0.5ADM-Funding.pdf). The FY2026 authorized funding totals \$5,053.4 (FY2025 base \$2,053.4 plus \$3,000.0). With the BSA increase and 10 additional eligible districts, DEED expects the authorized amount will be fully expended and prioritized per statute. The preliminary FY2026 average daily membership (ADM) estimates indicate total program need of \$6,203.9.</p>				
2	Education Support and Admin Services / Child Nutrition	Add Child and Adult Care Food Program On-Site Monitoring Grant (FY26- FY28)	n/a	Has the state provided any grant funding to sponsoring organizations for Child and Adult Care Food Program qualification?
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>The DEED has not provided any grant funding. The DEED offered information on limited federal 'Startup and Expansion' funds to the existing and potential Child and Adult Care Food Program sponsors, but all declined.</p>				
3	Education Support and Admin Services / Student and School Achievement	Repeal AK Resource Education Grant (FY25-FY26)	Net Zero	Has the Department provided grant funding to Alaska Resource Education in FY26, or does it intend to do so? If so, please specify the amounts.
<p>Agency Response</p> <p>The Alaska Resource Education received \$500.0 as a one-time FY2025 appropriation (from a proposed \$1,000.0 over two years); \$0 has been identified or provided in FY2026.</p>				

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4	Education Support and Admin Services / Career and Technical Education	Transfer Alaska Teachers and Personnel (AT&P) Program from the University of Alaska Troth Yedha' Campus	n/a	The Governor vetoed the funding from DLWD's budget, stating DEED "...will continue this function with existing resources." Please identify the specific source of funding for continuing this program.
Agency Response				
The AT&P program has been transferred to Alaska Council of School Administrators, and DEED is providing \$0 in FY2026 due to the Teacher Retention and Recruitment funding being eliminated.				
5	Education Support and Admin Services / Career and Technical Education	Add Funding for Career and Technical Education Initiatives	\$250.0 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc	Please provide details on the individual initiatives being funded with the \$1,000.0 in FY26 CTE initiatives funding (including the \$750.0 FY25 base increment). Please provide the dollar amount allocated to each specific initiative.
Agency Response				
For FY2026, DEED reports a total GF CTE budget of \$1,109.1 (comprised of a \$687.3 CTE base budget plus \$421.8 moved from Student and School Achievement through the FY2026 Management Plan to backfill the loss associated with the Minecraft decrement).				
FY2026 CTE initiative allocations:				
\$274.4 – Personnel costs				
\$315.0 – RSA to the Department of Labor and Workforce Development				
\$210.0 – Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs)				
\$75.0 – Career Guide contract				
\$25.0 – Grants to School Districts				
\$70.0 – Grant to Alaska Career and Technical Association (Alaska's Career and Technical Education Exchange (AKEE) platform)				
\$100.0 – Expand/strengthen electrical or plumbing CTE opportunities				
\$39.7 – Operating expenses (travel, supplies, contracted services)				
Total: \$1,109.1				

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6	Education Support and Admin Services / Career and Technical Education	Remove Minecraft License Funding	(\$1,209.0) Gen Fund (UGF) Dec	How much money has the Department spent on 'Coding in Minecraft' or 'Minecraft' licenses in FY26?
Agency Response				The DEED spent \$0 on 'Coding in Minecraft' or Minecraft licenses in FY2026.
7	Education Support and Admin Services / Career and Technical Education	Maintain Funding for Teacher Apprenticeship, Recruitment, and Retention	Net Zero	Has the Department continued funding any elements of this program. If so, please provide the funding amount for each element, and the specific source of funds.
Agency Response				The DEED continues to fund the following program elements in FY2026: \$408.8 (Title II-A) – apprenticeship tuition support and mentor training and stipend Support \$1,041.6 (State Apprenticeship Expansion Formula (SAEF) subaward) – apprentice tuition support; mentor training \$124.4 total (GF 80% / SPED Discretionary 20%) – apprenticeship coordinator and technical support
8	Student Financial Aid Programs / Alaska Performance Scholarship Awards	GA: Add Funding for Projected AK Performance Scholarship Disbursement Increases Beyond Ch4 SLA2024 Fiscal Note Funding	\$3,000.0 High Ed (DGF) Inc	Please provide an updated estimate of FY26 APS disbursements.
Agency Response				The estimated FY2026 Alaska Performance Scholarship disbursements are \$20.6 million; the estimate will be firmed in late January or early February 2026 after spring 2026 enrollment is known.

Foundation Formula Funding at 0.5 ADM

In 2022, the Alaska Legislature passed the Alaska Reads Act. Included in this act is the provision that school districts with district-wide early education programs that meet Alaska's Early Education Program Standards are eligible to receive 0.5 ADM for enrolled four and five-year-old students [AS 14.17.500(d)]. Formula funding is a reliable funding source for school district early education programs.

Funding Structure

- Annual legislative appropriation [Sec 14.17.500(f)].
- Applications available annually.
- Approval to include early education program students as 0.5 ADM is valid for a three-year period [4 AAC 60.210(i)]. Approved districts will re-apply every three years via a short-form reapplication process.
- Approved districts will submit an ADM assurances report annually near the time of the student count period [4 AAC 60.195(a)].

Eligibility

Any Alaska school district is encouraged to apply if it:

- Has consulted with all Head Start agencies operating within the school district boundaries and determined that an insufficient number of children attend high-quality childcare programs [Sec 14.03.410(c)];
 - See [form 05-24-031](#) for consultation guidance
 - [Head Start Consultation Technical Assistance Webinar recording](#)
 - [Head Start Consultation Technical Assistance Webinar PowerPoint](#)
- Has successfully implemented the Alaska Early Education Program Standards [Sec 14.07.165(a)(5)(A)]; and
 - See [Early Learning: Alaska Early Education Program Standards](#) for additional information.
- Employs early education teacher(s) with the required and current teacher certification [Sec 14.07.165(a)(5)(B)], include Alaska Reads Act Early Education Lead endorsement.
 - See [Teacher Certification](#)

- See [Teacher Certification: Available Endorsements](#)
- See [Alaska Reads Act Endorsements: Alaska Reads Act Early Education Lead](#)
- [Early Education Program Staffing Guidance](#)

See [Eligibility for Early Education Program Approval and 0.5 ADM Funding](#) for more guidance.

Determination of Recipients

- Approval will be determined according to compliance with each of the above-mentioned eligibility requirements as documented on the 0.5 ADM application.
- When funding is limited, the department must prioritize the funding of district-wide early education programs, giving priority to school districts with lower performance, based on the department's ranking of districts.

Application Timeline

- Application released annually in the fall
- **Applications due May 15**
- Applicants notified of approval on or before September 1.
- Approved applicants may begin counting four and five-year-old early education program students in the fall average daily membership count of the same year.

Notice: Timeline will change for FY28. Application for FY28, will be due the last Friday in January 2027.

Application Materials and Resources

- [Sample Application](#). Click to view a sample FY26 application.
- FY26 Application for Early Education Program Approval and 0.5 ADM. *No longer accepting applications.*

Please contact Jayne McFarland at jayne.mcfarland@alaska.gov or (907) 269-7974 for additional information.

Current 0.5 ADM Recipients

Starting Fall 2023

Anchorage S.D.

Starting Fall 2024

Skagway City S.D.

Valdez City S.D.

Starting Fall 2025

Annette Island S.D.

Bering Strait S.D.

Chatham S.D.

Fairbanks North Star Borough S.D.

Kenai Borough S.D.

Ketchikan Gateway Borough S.D.

Matanuska Susitna Borough S.D.

North Slope Borough S.D.

Petersburg S.D.

Southeast Island S.D.