Alaska Reads Act
Virtual Education Program Introduction

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Division of Innovation and Education Excellence

Kelly Manning, Deputy Director
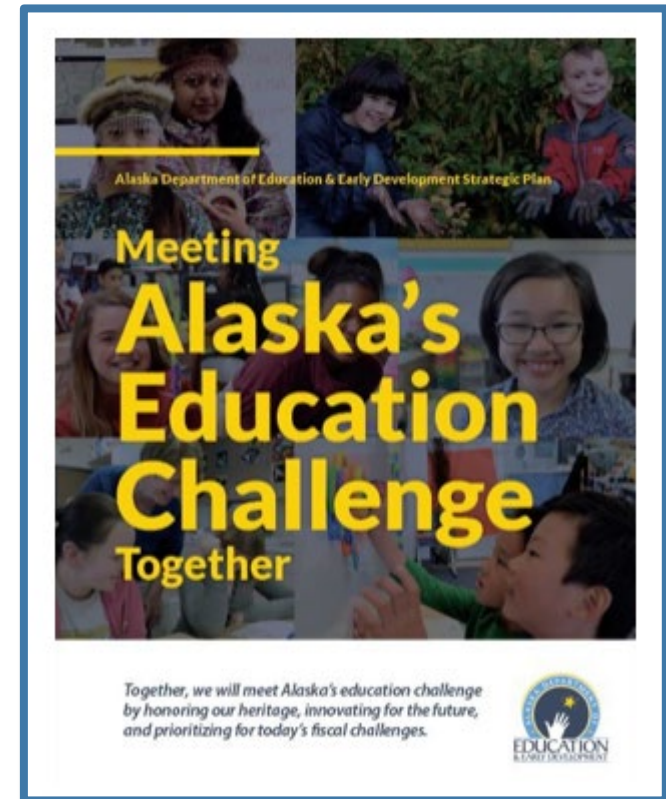
April 6th, 2023

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 **information**, **resources**, and **leadership** to support an excellent education for every student every day.

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Strategic Priorities: Alaska's Education Challenge

Five Shared 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.

education.alaska.gov/akedchallenge

Agenda

- Details of Alaska Reads Act webinars

- Alaska Reads Act Overview

- Overview of Virtual Education Statute

- Consortium Requirements

- Consortium Recruitment Plans

- Questions

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

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Alaska Reads Act Timeline and Resources

TIMELINE

o Regulations
  o August 2022 – December 2022
o Preparation
  o September 2022 – March 2023
o State Board of Education regulation package
  o January 25, 2023
o Public Comment
  o February 2023 – March 2023
o Anticipated Adoption
  o April 2023
o Virtual Education Regulations
  o Two Rounds – June 2023 and June 2024

RESOURCES

https://education.alaska.gov/akreads:
o Webinar schedule and registration
o Recordings of webinars
o Slide decks
o Draft documents shared during webinars
o One-page supports
o FAQ

Alaska Reads
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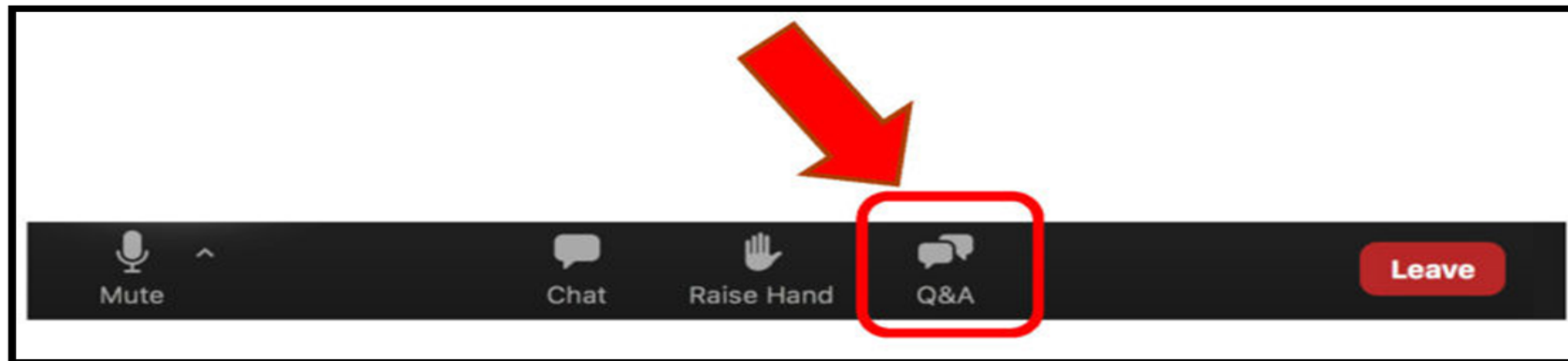
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Communication

- There will be an FAQ document posted after this webinar

- Send questions to akreads@alaska.gov

- Request presentation for your district

- Reading Newsletter

- Alaska Reads Website (education.alaska.gov/akreads)
  - Weekly updates

- Planning in-person meetings around the state

- *THANK YOU to many who provided feedback*

Questions?

- Please put questions into the Q&A tab

- Do not put questions in the chat

- Questions will be answered at the end of the presentation, time permitting

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 Components

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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

Virtual Education Sections

✓ Virtual Education Consortium

✓ Content Platform

✓ Educator Approval

✓ Content Approval

April Webinar Topics:

April 6th	April 13th	April 20th
Virtual Education	Virtual Education	District Reading Intervention
• Overview • Consortium Framework • Recruitment Plan	• Platform • Delivery Models • Content • Development Plans	• K-3 MTSS Plan Processes • K-3 MTSS Plan Feedback for SY 23-24

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Virtual Education Programs:
Consortium

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House Bill 114

Virtual education consortium

The department shall, in cooperation with school districts, establish a virtual education consortium for the purpose of making virtual education and professional development resources available to students and teachers in the state.

The department shall establish standards for consortium resources.

House Bill 114

The consortium shall create and maintain a database of virtual education courses for students, training in virtual instruction for teachers, and professional development courses for teachers of students throughout the state if the coursework curriculum meets the state standards established by the department.

The database must be accessible to all school districts that participate in the consortium.

Consortium Membership

Proposed Regulation

9 Member Governing Board

(2) Two tribal representatives

(2) Two members of Statewide Education Agencies

(5) Five individuals employed by school districts, to include:

(A) Teachers and administrators

(B) Representatives from both rural and urban districts

DEED Goals for Distance Learning

1. Create a **sustainable** resource for teachers to share and find high-quality content and courses.

2. Support educators as they learn and demonstrate **effective** distance learning pedagogy.

3. Partner with districts to align resources with **local needs**.

Consortium Concept

- Schools may opt into the system depending on need:
  - Could join at any time
  - What the consortium is would be defined by an oversight group made up of consortium participants and other relevant stakeholders.

Consortium Concept

- Model would provide a structure for sharing costs
  - Cost agreed upon by *consortium governing board*
    - Set into regulation for consistency
    - Not structured by DEED
  - Could result in districts buying seats in classes
  - Could be synchronous or asynchronous

Consortium Concept

- Would provide a framework that ensures BSA and student count data would <u>not</u> be impacted
- Would provide pre-created agreements for interested districts to ease administrative burden

Consortium Concept

- Vetted content
- The model will be refined over the coming year. **We need your input!**

What the consortium is...

✓ It is an opportunity for districts to share resources

✓ It is an opportunity for student to access content regardless of their geographical location

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What the consortium is not...

❌ It is not a virtual school

❌ It is not a Learning Management System (LMS) – *e.g. Canvas, Moodle, etc.*

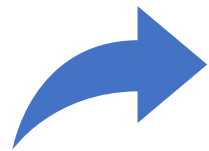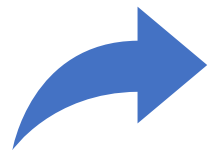❌ It does not provide a method of counting students

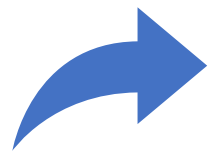❌ It does not provide teachers

Regulation Timeline

Round One Regulations

April 2023: Proposed Regulations submitted to State Board of Education for review and public comment

June 2023: Finalized Regulations approved by State Board of Education

July 2023: Governing Board recruited by DEED

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Round Two Regulations

Governing Board further defines purpose of Consortium

DEED develops regulations to support Consortium vision and purpose

December 2023: Proposed Regulations submitted to State Board of Education for review and public comment

January/February 2024: Finalized Regulations approved by State Board of Education

July 2024: Consortium content begin publication on platform

Next Steps

- Needs sensing (survey)
- Form consortium governing board (pending regulation approval)
- Build a database for sharing resources
- Develop standards for teachers and materials/activities
  - Build a course for teaching online pedagogy
- Provide support and professional learning for capacity building of educators

Distance Learning Survey

tinyurl.com/akdistance

Highlights of Current District Response Data:

➢ 50% provide synchronous at-distance courses to students within their district.

➢ 12% have students taking courses from teachers in another Alaskan school district.

➢ 70% have students taking courses from non-Alaskan-district sources (eg: FLVS, BYU).

➢ 89% of respondents said that teacher training is the primary support their district/school needs to expand their provision of at-distance coursework.

➢ 82% asked for resources in Google Doc/Sheets they can include in existing courses/units/lessons. 8% asked for full SCORM-importable courses.

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Questions

Virtual Education Committee
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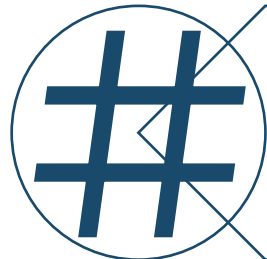
Stay Connected

Website

- education.alaska.gov

Phone

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

- @AlaskaDEED