

# System for School Success

## ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEMS - WHAT & WHY?

### What is the *System for School Success*? Why is it important?

The *System for School Success* is Alaska's new accountability system for public schools. The 2018-2019 school year will be the first time the *System for School Success* is used to help schools and districts measure their performance on key indicators, identify areas for improvement, and target resources and support for **all students to receive an excellent education** and be prepared for college or a career after high school.

This accountability system is part of Alaska's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) plan. ESSA is a federal law that imposes requirements for public schools in exchange for funding designed to close our nation's gaps in student achievement. Each state education agency, including Alaska's Department of Education and Early Development, was required to submit a plan detailing the implementation of this law. Alaska's ESSA plan was approved by the U.S. Department of Education on May 16, 2018.

### What is an accountability system? Why is it important?

Alaska's accountability system is designed to celebrate success and identify areas where additional support is needed, with the **goal of increasing achievement for all students**. A common misunderstanding is that state accountability systems are intended to be punitive, but that is not the case. Just as state standards and assessments set expectations for what students should know and be able to do, state accountability systems **set expectations for school performance and school system effectiveness**.

Alaska's accountability system allows us to:

- Articulate our goals for student achievement, growth, and success
- Collect, analyze, and report on school performance on a regular basis
- Identify high-performing or rapidly improving schools for recognition and low-performing schools for support
- Provide additional support and assistance to low performing schools

### Why does it matter?

Every element of our education system, including our expectations for students, how we understand if students are meeting those expectations, and how we are working with and supporting teachers and leaders, works toward the goal of ensuring all students are prepared for success after high school. Accountability is one element of that system.

Accountability systems provide information about **how each school is supporting its students**. This information helps us focus on what matters most, gives us a better understanding of what is working well, and helps determine where we need to improve so we can help all students succeed.