

LPSD Curriculum Report

September 2026

To: LPSD School Board Members and Superintendent Kasie Luke

From: Moon McCarley, Director of Curriculum and Assessment

NEW K-5 Reading Curriculum

After a semester long piloting process, Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) was chosen as the new reading curriculum. CKLA is published by Amplify. Piloting teachers appreciated the robust foundational skills and features they felt could work in multi level classrooms. Those teachers who will be using CKLA attended a full day of training during August inservice and will have another day of coaching and planning during October inservice. There are always challenges with transitions. I am working with teachers, principals and the team at Amplify to address any issues that arise.

K-12 Mathematics Review

While it is unconfirmed, there is wide speculation that legislation similar to the Alaska Reads Act will be coming for mathematics instruction sometime soon. Additionally, our subscriptions for Everyday Math and Reveal math end in fy27. During fy27 we will begin to evaluate the need for new math curriculum. It's important to not overwhelm teachers who are already rolling out a new reading program. Additionally, it would be preferable to know which math programs are going to be recommended in any new legislation. As part of their School Improvement Plan, Chignik Lake School will be piloting and adopting a new math curriculum for their students. Their findings will help set the groundwork for a districtwide piloting and selection process in the future.

New Social Studies Standards and Civics and Senate Bill 23

In order to align with the newish Alaska Social Studies Standards LPSD is in the process of revising our current standards. In the spring, Sara Erickson and Stephanie Barthelman worked with Nicole Metzgar on the K-5 standards. They took a huge number of standards and consolidated them into a manageable number of standards that align with the LPSD mission and vision. You can see them in the [LPSD 2026-2027 Standards Booklet](#) on pages 151-156. The 6-12 standards will be revised this year. This is good timing as the Alaska State Senate passed SB23 in June. This bill includes new requirements for civics instruction for high school students. The LPSD social studies committee will be able to align the new standards with the LPSD standards and the requirements of this new legislation. A brief about Bill 23 was created by DEED and is included with this report.

New Teacher and Student Teacher Induction

New teachers and student teachers arrived in Anchorage on or before August 19. The 20th was whirlwind day in Anchorage, getting their emails and computers, meeting with the business office, getting cell phones and driver's licenses and SHOPPING. On the 21st everyone traveled to Port Alsworth for a weekend of learning about LPSD, enjoying the beautiful area, and getting to

know each other. It takes a lot of logistics planning and work but this induction experience is a great way to welcome new team members to LPSD.



LPSD takes of Lake Clark Air



These two expressed interest in joining the team but ultimately decided to pursue other opportunities.

October Inservice

LPSD is partnering with the Bristol Bay Foundation BUBBLE grant team and BBBSD on this year's October inservice. The main focuses will be on the language program, place-based learning, and culturally responsive teaching practices. Along with these staff will do other types of professional development and get to know each other in person. The process of planning with our partners has been fun with everyone bringing their own perspective and enthusiasm to the process. In person inservice is a big undertaking but it has so many positive pay offs for our staff. We are fortunate to have the financial support of the BUBBLE, CLSD, and Title 1 grants that will make this possible.

Alaska Social Studies Standards

Brief for Districts: Civics & Senate Bill 23

Key Vocabulary | Annotated Law | Summary of Takeaways | FAQ



Purpose and Audience

This document was drafted to:

- Share the enrolled version of AK SB 23
- Unpack the responsibilities, recommendations, key terms, and key dates detailed in the law
- Share FAQ's regarding implementation of SB23

This document is intended to support the following audiences:

- Alaska School Districts
- Teachers in Alaska who teach Civics, Comparative Government or Social Studies
- Pre-service teachers preparing to teach Civics, Comparative Government, or Social Studies in Alaska
- Interested community partners

Context:

- On June 18, 2026, Alaska Senate Bill 23 passed into law without Governor Dunleavy's signature. The effective date of the law is July 1, 2027; this means that the implementation date for AK DEED and AK school districts is July 1, 2027.
- The enrolled law (the version which passed into law on June 18) is available [here](#).

****It is highly recommended that district superintendents, district content / curriculum supervisors, district social studies teachers, and any other staff members with relevant connections to high school Civics / Comparative Government instruction closely read the enrolled law.****

Key Vocabulary

Civics may refer to:

1. Standards related to Civics which occur in all grades, K-12, in the 2024 Alaska Social Studies Standards.
2. A grade 8 course in “U.S. History and Civics” as articulated in the 2024 Alaska Social Studies Standards.
3. A course, often in high school, on Civics offered in Alaska School Districts.

SB23 may refer to:

1. An act of law passed on June 18, 2026 by the Alaska legislature relating to civics education, civics assessments, and secondary school graduation requirements. **SB 23 takes effect July 1, 2027.**

open educational resource (according to SB 23) may refer to:

1. Learning, teaching, or research material in any format that resides in the public domain
2. Learning, teaching, or research material in any format that is under copyright and has been released under an open license that permits access at no cost as well as reuse, repurpose, adaptation, and redistribution by others.

passing score (according to SB 23) may refer to a student who:

1. Achieves a grade of 70 percent or higher in a one-semester course
2. Correctly answers 70 percent or more of the questions in a civics assessment
3. Achieves a score of 70 percent or higher on a civics project based assessment.

Annotated Law

To disaggregate the enrolled law, see the annotated version below.

Key:

AK State Board of Education / AK DEED responsibilities & requirements

AK District / AK School responsibilities & requirements

Required Civics topics

Key definitions, terms, and critical definitions and dates.

Annotations	Senate Bill 23
	AN ACT
	1 Relating to civics education, civics assessments, and secondary school graduation
	2 requirements; and providing for an effective date.
	3 _____
	4 * Section 1. AS 14.03 is amended by adding a new section to read:
	5 Sec. 14.03.076. Comparative government and civics education and
Sec 1 (a) AK SBOE will	6 assessments requirement. (a) The board shall make available on the department's
provide a list of "open	7 Internet website and periodically update a list of open educational resources relating to
educational resources" via	8 comparative government and civics education curricula, civics assessments, and civics
the AK DEED website	9 project-based assessments. A school district may use the list provided by the board to
AK Districts may use this list	10 instruct students in comparative government and civics.
of resources	11 (b) The list provided under (a) of this section must include resources about
	12 instruction on
List of required instructional	13 (1) the founding history of the United States, including foundational
topics	14 documents and the principles of government of the United States;
	15 (2) federalism, including the role and operations of local, state, and

Annotations	Senate Bill 23
	1 national governments; 2 (3) the institutions of the United States government, including the 3 responsibilities of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches; 4 (4) the rights and responsibilities of United States citizenship; 5 (5) civil liberties and civil rights; 6 (6) the Constitution of the State of Alaska and the Constitution of the 7 United States; 8 (7) political parties and interest groups; 9 (8) campaigns and elections; 10 (9) the United States Congress; 11 (10) domestic policy; 12 (11) foreign policy; 13 (12) comparative systems of governments used globally and by Alaska 14 Natives; 15 (13) international relations; and 16 (14) major issues facing local, state, and the United States 17 governments. AK schools' requirements and exceptions for issuing diplomas in relation to SB 23 civics requirements 18 (c) A school may not issue a secondary school diploma to a student unless the 19 student has received instruction on the topics listed in (b) of this section and the 20 student has 21 (1) completed one semester of a comparative government and civics 22 education course and achieved a passing score in the course; 23 (2) achieved a passing score on a civics assessment; or 24 (3) achieved a passing score on a civics project-based assessment. 25 (d) Notwithstanding (c) of this section, a school may issue a secondary school

Annotations	Senate Bill 23
	26 diploma to a student who has not met the requirements of (c) of this section if the 27 student provides the governing body with evidence that the student 28 (1) transferred into a public school in the state after completing grade 29 10 at a school in another state; 30 (2) has, either within the previous five years or from a secondary 31 school in another state, received instruction on the subjects listed in (b) of this section 1 and achieved a passing score in a one-semester course or on a civics assessment or 2 civics project-based assessment that is similar to the course or assessments described 3 in (c) of this section; or 4 (3) is a student with a disability who receives a waiver from the 5 governing body. 6 (e) If a student has achieved a passing score as required under (c) of this 7 section, the school shall document on the student's transcript that the student achieved 8 a passing score. A student may retake the assessment required under (c)(2) of this 9 section as needed to achieve a passing score. 10 (f) The department shall adopt regulations to recognize a student who has 11 attained a high level of proficiency in civic knowledge, civic skills, a civic mindset, 12 and civic experiences by affixing a seal of civic readiness on the student's school 13 transcript and diploma. 14 (g) In this section, 15 (1) "open educational resource" means learning, teaching, or research 16 material in any format that resides in the public domain or is under copyright and has 17 been released under an open license that permits access at no cost as well as reuse, 18 repurpose, adaptation, and redistribution by others; 19 (2) "passing score" means a student achieves a grade of 70 percent or

AK DEED requirement to
create a Civics Seal program

Definition: **open
educational resource**

Definition: **passing score**

Annotations	Senate Bill 23
New AK Graduation Requirements language will impact district graduation requirements / publications Implementation date for AK Districts / Schools and SBOE / AK DEED: 7/1/27	20 higher in a one-semester course, correctly answers 70 percent or more of the questions 21 on a civics assessment, or achieves a score of 70 percent or higher on a civics project 22 based assessment. 23 * Sec. 2. The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to 24 read: 25 APPLICABILITY: GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS. The requirement that a 26 school issue a secondary school diploma only to a student who has met the requirements set 27 out in AS 14.03.076(c), enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, applies to students who enter grade nine 28 on or after July 1, 2027. 29 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect July 1, 2027.

Key Takeaways

- AK SBOE will provide a list of “open educational resources” via the AK DEED website
 - o AK districts may use this list of open educational resources
- SB23 articulates a list of 14 required instructional topics
 - o The list of open educational resources must include these instructional topics
- For AK Schools issuing diplomas, there are multiple requirements and exceptions in relation to SB 23 civics requirements
- AK DEED will create a Civics Seal program
- SB 23 provides definitions for **open educational resource** and **passing score**
- New AK Graduation Requirements language will impact district graduation requirements / publications
- 7/1/26 is the implementation date for AK Districts / Schools and SBOE / AK DEED

FAQ's

1: When does the law start?

The implementation date for SB 23 is July 1, 2027.

2: Districts: What does the law require Alaska districts to do?

For Alaska schools issuing diplomas, there are multiple requirements:

- Students must receive instruction in the topics listed in **see Sec 1 (b)** of the [enrolled law](#).
- Students must complete one of the following:
 - o one semester of a comparative government and civics education course and achieved a passing score in the course;
 - o achieved a passing score on a civics assessment;
 - o or achieved a passing score on a civics project-based assessment.

Also, for Alaska schools issuing diplomas, there are multiple exceptions. See **Sec 1 (c)** of the [enrolled law](#) for details.

Districts may use resources from the list of open educational resources to be published on the AK DEED website (July 1, 2027.)

3: What does the law require the AK State Board of Education / AK DEED to do?

SB 23 requires the AK SBOE / AK DEED to:

- AK SBOE will provide a list of “open educational resources” via the AK DEED website
- Resources on this list must include the instructional topics listed in **Sec 1 (b)**.
- AK DEED will create and implement a Civics Seal program (starting July 1, 2027)

To support these requirements, AK DEED will also

Create a Civics Working Group made up of a AK Educators and stakeholders.

AK DEED and the Civics Working Group will develop a rubric for selecting high quality instructional materials. This rubric will be used to create the list of open educational resources to be published on AK DEED’s website. Also, this rubric will be shared with AK districts to support with the selection and adoption of curricula.

4: What does the law require teachers to do?

The law does not explicitly name requirements for Alaska teachers. However, teachers teaching Civics / Comparative Government courses should plan to cover the list of instructional topics in **Sec 1 (b)** of the [enrolled law](#).

Teachers interested in supporting implementation of the law may apply to participate in AK DEED’s Civics Working Group, details forthcoming. Email curtis.jensen@alaska.gov for more information.

Teachers are also welcome to support students’ participation in the Civics Seal program, which will launch AY 27-28.

5: According to the law, what does “passing” mean?

According to SB 23, **passing score** means “a student achieves a grade of 70 percent or higher in a one-semester course, correctly answers 70 percent or more of the questions on a civics assessment, or achieves a score of 70 percent or higher on a civics project based assessment.”

****this definition only applies to civics and comparative government scores relevant to the requirements set out in SB 23.****

6: What does “open educational resource” mean?

According to SB 23, **open educational resource** means “learning, teaching, or research material in any format that resides in the public domain or is under copyright and has been released under an open license that permits access at no cost as well as reuse, repurpose, adaptation, and redistribution by others”

****this definition only applies to civics and comparative government scores relevant to the requirements set out in SB 23.****

7: How will the list of resources be chosen?

AK DEED will collaborate with the Civics Working Group (see question 8 for more details) to finalize and publish a Civics High Quality Instructional Materials (HQIM) Rubric. AK DEED will issue a Request for Information (Winter 2026-27) to collect details about open educational resources available from AK districts and potential vendors. The Civics Working Group will use the Civics HQIM Rubric to assess materials received through the RFI process to be featured on the AK DEED website. The Civics HQIM Rubric will be shared with AK Districts and made available to the public. The list of open educational resources will be published in Spring 2027 on the AK DEED Social Studies website.

8: What does “Civics Seal program” mean? How can my district / classroom / student participate in the Civics Seal program?

A “civics seal program” will be a program to “recognize a student who has attained a high level of proficiency in civic knowledge, civic skills, a civic mindset, and civic experiences by affixing a seal of civic readiness on the student’s school transcript and diploma.”

Details about the Civics Seal program will be released in Spring 2027. Any AK high school student is eligible to participate. For more details, email curtis.jensen@alaska.gov.

9: I'd like to help with the list of open educational resources / the Civics Seal Program / implementing the law. How can I get involved?

AK DEED is creating a Civics Working Group (CWG) to support civics education and implementation of SB 23. Details about the application process will be released in Summer 2026, with applications finalized and work beginning in Fall 2026.

CWG applications are open to: AK Educators, community stakeholders, and tribal partners. Special preference will be given to applicants who currently teach civics or work on active civics education projects. CWG positions will include stipends. Email curtis.jensen@alaska.gov for more information.

10: How does this law align with the AK Social Studies Standards?

The 2024 Standards feature Civic Content Anchor Standards which are embedded in every grade level, K-12. This means that students will encounter the Civics anchor standards and Civics content recursively throughout their Alaska classroom experience, K-12.

In grades 6-8, Civics anchor standards are embedded in themes which include grade-leveled content standards. At grade 8, the course “U.S. History and Civics” features a Civics focus in Theme 5.

In grades 9-12, Civics anchor standards are listed with 9-12 content standards. Related content standards are embedded in course themes for each course included in the document: U.S. History, World History, and Alaska History.¹

Senate Bill 23 articulates a list of fourteen instructional topics. According to the law, for Alaska schools issuing diplomas:

- Students must receive instruction in the topics listed in **Sec 1 (b)** of the [enrolled law](#).
- Students must complete one of the following: one semester of a comparative government and civics education course and achieved a passing score in the course; achieved a passing score on a civics assessment; or achieved a passing score on a civics project-based assessment.

There is no specific Civics or Comparative Government course articulated in the AK Social Studies Standards.

¹ [Crosswalk: Civics in the Alaska Social Studies Standards](#)

The 14 instructional topics listed in **Sec 1 (b)** of the [enrolled law](#) intersect with the AK Social Studies Standards in multiple locations. To unpack these intersections and support implementation of SB 23, AK DEED is preparing Crosswalk: Civics in the AK Social Studies Standards vs. Senate Bill 23, forthcoming in Fall 2026.

12: How do I find out if my district's adopted curriculum meets the requirements of the law?

Refer to the list of required instructional topics on **Sec 1 (b)** of the [enrolled law](#).

13: Who can I contact if I have questions about the law? Civics? Social Studies?

Contact Curtis Jensen, AK DEED ELA / Social Studies Content Specialist: curtis.jensen@alaska.gov