



Department Reading Program

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Department Reading Program is a component of the Alaska Reads Act that is voluntary for schools serving kindergarten through grade three and receive state funding for education and qualify. Section 14.30.770 of HB 114 states:

“The department shall establish a reading program to provide direct support for and intervention in intensive reading intervention services annually in the lowest-performing 25 percent of schools serving students in grades kindergarten through three as determined under AS 14.03.123.”

Department Reading Program includes:

- Annually identifying and notifying the lowest performing 25% of schools using the Department accountability system, with an application to voluntarily participate in the Department Reading Program.
- Notifying schools that have applied to participate in the Department Reading Program regarding their acceptance or denial.
- Assigning a Department Reading Specialist to each participating school.
- Collaboration of the Department Reading Specialist and the school to design a K-3 Intensive School Reading Improvement Plan to implement the following school year.
- Implementation of the K-3 Intensive School Reading Improvement Plan with the support of a Department Reading Specialist. There will be an option to participate in the Department Reading Program for another year if the school continues to qualify.
- Support with professional development in evidence-based reading and data analysis.
- Support with the school reading schedules to maximize opportunities for growth and apply best practices.
- Purchase of reading intervention materials that align with the K-3 Intensive School Reading Improvement Plan.
- Support the school in communicating the Department Reading Program and K-3 Intensive School Reading Improvement Plan and progress to local stakeholders.