



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Education  
& Early Development

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

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September 29, 2023

Superintendents of Alaska School Districts

Dear Superintendents,

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to speak with many of you at the annual ASA Fall Conference. One topic of conversation was the need for flexibility in creating and utilizing Individual Reading Improvement Plans (IRIPs). After reviewing statewide literacy screening data and gathering feedback on the AK Reads Act requirements, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) recognizes the need to offer flexibility in developing IRIPs. Below is a written record of the allowances for flexibility in regard to IRIPs required in compliance with the Reads Act.

The intent of the AK Reads Act remains the same:

“Each school district shall offer intensive reading intervention services to students in grades kindergarten through three who exhibit a reading deficiency to assist students in achieving reading proficiency at or above grade level by the end of grade three.” (AS 14.30.765)

The timeline for implementing the AK Reads Act remains the same for grades 1-3. The required timeline for developing Kindergarten IRIPs will begin after the middle-of-year screening; however, school teams may develop Kindergarten IRIPs as soon as deemed necessary.

The requirement to address deficiencies for students in grades K-3 will be as follows:

- Parent notification and IRIPs are required for students scoring in the **Well Below** risk category as measured by mCLASS DIBELS 8 assessment.

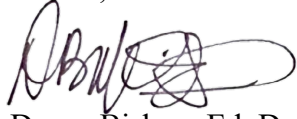
For students scoring in the **Below** risk category, as measured by mCLASS DIBELS 8 assessment, the following guidance is recommended:

- School teams will analyze individual student data and provide interventions as necessary.
- IRIPs may be developed.
- Teachers proactively communicate concerns with parents/guardians.
- Progress is consistently monitored and communicated to parents/guardians.

Attached is a document comparing mCLASS DIBELS 8 composite cut scores and national percentile rankings for grades K-3.

As we all adjust to this innovative approach to learning and teaching, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team at DEED if you need additional guidance.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deena Bishop", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Deena Bishop, Ed. D.  
Commissioner