



MEMORANDUM

To: Superintendents
From: Dr. Michael Johnson, Commissioner
Date: June 14, 2022
Subject: Passage of the Alaska Reads Act

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Johnson", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform you that the Alaska Reads Act was adopted under House Bill (HB) 114. There was a ceremonial bill signing that occurred on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at Turnagain Elementary School in Anchorage, however, the bill has not yet been signed by the Governor.

The Alaska Reads Act creates four new programs within the Department of Education and Early Development (DEED): (1) an early education program, (2) a comprehensive reading intervention program, (3) a school improvement reading program, and (4) a virtual education consortium. The Alaska Reads Act addresses the number one priority of Alaska's Education Challenge, "support all students to read at grade level by the end of third grade" and is an effort to improve reading skills through increased accountability, well placed resources, and by leveraging the modernization efforts we have already begun during the pandemic.

The effective date for the Alaska Reads Act portion of HB 114 is July 1, 2023 (FY2024). DEED is actively working through an implementation plan and timeline that will ensure everything is ready to go by the effective date. More information on the plan and timeline will be provided during the Alaska Superintendents Association/DEED Summer meeting on July 25, 2022.

In the meantime, if you have any questions regarding the Alaska Reads Act in HB 114, please contact Heidi Teshner at 907-465-2875 or heidi.teshner@alaska.gov.

cc: Lacey Sanders, Deputy Commissioner
Heidi Teshner, Deputy Commissioner
Kollette Schroeder, Special Assistant to the Commissioner and Legislative Liaison