



THE STATE  
*of* **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

**Department of Education  
& Early Development**

DIVISION OF INNOVATION &  
EDUCATION EXCELLENCE

801 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
P.O. Box 110500  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0500  
Main: 907.465.2830  
Fax: 907.465.6760

12/9/2022

Dear Districts,

Earlier this year, DEED submitted an [application](#) to US ED to make temporary changes to the System for School Success, Alaska's accountability plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). [Approval](#) for the changes was received in August. The details of the proposed changes in the addendum request were presented earlier this year and can be found at <https://education.alaska.gov/changes-to-alaska-s-system-for-school-success-for-fall-of-2022>.

Because of the introduction of the new statewide summative assessment, AK STAR, and timing to calculate the cut points for the different achievement levels, DEED anticipates making the designations public after the New Year.

As mentioned above, DEED school designations will return for the 2022-2023 school year. Because designations are returning, districts are expected to follow the notification requirements outlined in [state regulations](#). Some of the requirements in these regulations include:

- notifying parents of each student enrolled in the schools with designations,
- explaining what led to the designation,
- providing information to parents on how they can become involved in developing the Successful School Improvement Plan, and
- explaining what the school is doing to improve performance.

Districts are encouraged to review the full list of requirements in [4 AAC 06.880](#).

There are several documents on the DEED website that explain how the designations are calculated which can be found under the [System for School Success Resources](#) tab.

DEED will reach out to districts on their 2022-2023 designations between December 12 and December 16. More details concerning the support provided by and expectations of DEED per designation tier will follow, as well as an informative webinar scheduled for Dec 19 at 9:00 am, and a repeat for January 4 at 9:00 am, Zoom invitations to follow. Any persons interested in learning more about their designation status and the process for school improvement should attend. Please forward to all you feel appropriate should be there. Only one session needs to be attended.

If you have any questions about Alaska's accountability system, please contact John Jones ([john.jones2@alaska.gov](mailto:john.jones2@alaska.gov) or 907-465-8418).

If you have any questions about Alaska's approach to Successful School Improvement Planning, please contact Brittney Bailey ([brittnay.bailey@alaska.gov](mailto:brittnay.bailey@alaska.gov) or 907-269-6754)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan E. McKenzie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" and last name "McKenzie" clearly legible.

Susan McKenzie

Director, Division of Innovation and Education Excellence  
Department of Education & Early Development