



# Alaska Reads Act

Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

# AGENDA

- ▶ What is the Alaska Reads Act?
- ▶ What is a comprehensive K-3 reading policy?
- ▶ Why is it important?
- ▶ How is the District preparing?
- ▶ Questions and Comments

# WHAT IS THE ALASKA READS ACT?

- ▶ House Bill 114
  - ▶ Passed in June and signed into law in July 2022
- ▶ Comprehensive K-3 Reading Policy
- ▶ Improve reading outcomes
- ▶ Expands high-quality pre-k opportunities
- ▶ Direct support & intervention services to low-performing schools
- ▶ Early identification of struggling readers
- ▶ Requires intervention services for K-3 struggling readers

# READS ACT PROGRAM ELEMENTS:

- ▶ District Reading Improvement (Only Required)
- ▶ Department Reading Program
- ▶ Pre-K and Parents as Teachers
- ▶ Virtual Education

# READING INTERVENTION OVERVIEW

## RTI Framework

- District/School Plan
- Approved by DEED

## Literacy Screener

- Statewide Screener K-3
- Apply for Waiver

## Individual Reading Improvement Plan

- Tier II for K-3
- Tier III for K-3

## Grade Progression

- Reading Deficiencies
- Discussion and Plan with Parents

# WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE K-3 READING POLICY?

- ▶ Early education program grants
- ▶ Early screening
- ▶ Parent involvement
- ▶ Teacher training
- ▶ Direct support for low-performing schools
- ▶ Intensive reading intervention

# FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES:

1. Statewide teacher training on reading instruction
  - ▶ Job-embedded training
  - ▶ Department-employed reading specialist
  - ▶ Enhanced Alaska teacher licensing requirements
2. Focusing existing state and federal funds
  - ▶ Support implementation
  - ▶ New funding through grants
3. Early literacy screening tool
  - ▶ State-wide screener
  - ▶ Three times per year (K-3)
4. Timely parent notification

# FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES (cont.):

## 5. Individual reading plans

- ▶ Developed with parent
- ▶ Evidence-based reading intervention

## 6. Student progress monitoring

## 7. Home reading strategies

- ▶ Provided to parents to help support

## 8. Interventions

- ▶ During, before, and after school

# FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES (cont.):

## 9. Appropriate grade-level progression

- ▶ K-3 students that have a reading deficiency will have meetings to determine progression to the next grade-level
- ▶ 4th grade students unable to demonstrate sufficient reading skills will have more intensive interventions with a highly effective teacher

## 10. Multiple pathways

- ▶ 3rd grade students will have different ways to demonstrate reading skills
- ▶ One test on one day is not the determining factor to demonstrate reading skills

## 11. Good cause exemption for grade-level progression

- ▶ Special needs with disabilities
- ▶ English language learners
- ▶ Previously delayed grade-level progression (retention)
- ▶ Parent waiver, with commitment of 20 coursework hours in the summer

# WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- ▶ The ability to read is a predictor of life-long success
- ▶ A strong reading program gives students the best chance to maximize their education

PK-3rd Grade - Learn to read  
4th and beyond - Read to learn

# HOW IS KPBSD PREPARING?

1. Enhance KPBSD's RTI process
  - ▶ Participation in Alaska MTSS Refresh project (Kari, Cindy, Angie, Katie)
  - ▶ Researching supplemental programs recommended by the state (DIT)
  - ▶ Teachers and admin attended RTI/MTSS Conference and Science of Reading Symposium for additional support
  - ▶ Teachers /will be attending RTI/MTSS Conference and Science of Reading Symposium for additional support
2. Adopted the State-wide literacy screener
  - ▶ mCLASS by Amplify (using DIBELS 8<sup>th</sup>...change from AIMS Web)
3. Adopt a research-based English Language Arts curriculum
  - ▶ Researched numerous DEED vetted curricula
  - ▶ 3/2023, ELA Curriculum Committee put forth CKLA for adoption
  - ▶ CKLA based on the principles of the Science of Reading
  - ▶ CKLA aligns with Amplify Literacy Screener

# HOW IS KPBSD PREPARING (cont.)?

## 4. Professional development opportunities based on the Science of Reading

- ▶ Alaska Science of Reading Symposium
- ▶ LETRs training for teachers and admin
- ▶ Looking at ways the CORE Literacy Grant can support efforts (DIT)

## 5. Briefing the KPBSD School Board

- ▶ DIT-Lit Subgroup
- ▶ Effective Literacy Team
- ▶ CORE Literacy Grant
- ▶ LETRs trainings

6. March Admin Meeting principals reviewed AK Reads Act with DEED Director of Innovation and Education Excellence Susan McKenzie and Assistant Superintendent Dendurent

7. Continuing to stay up to date with changes and regulations

#### 4 AAC 12.393. Endorsement requirements for K-3 teachers and district reading teachers.

A person employed by a school district to teach kindergarten through grade 3 shall obtain a K-3 educator endorsement under this subsection.

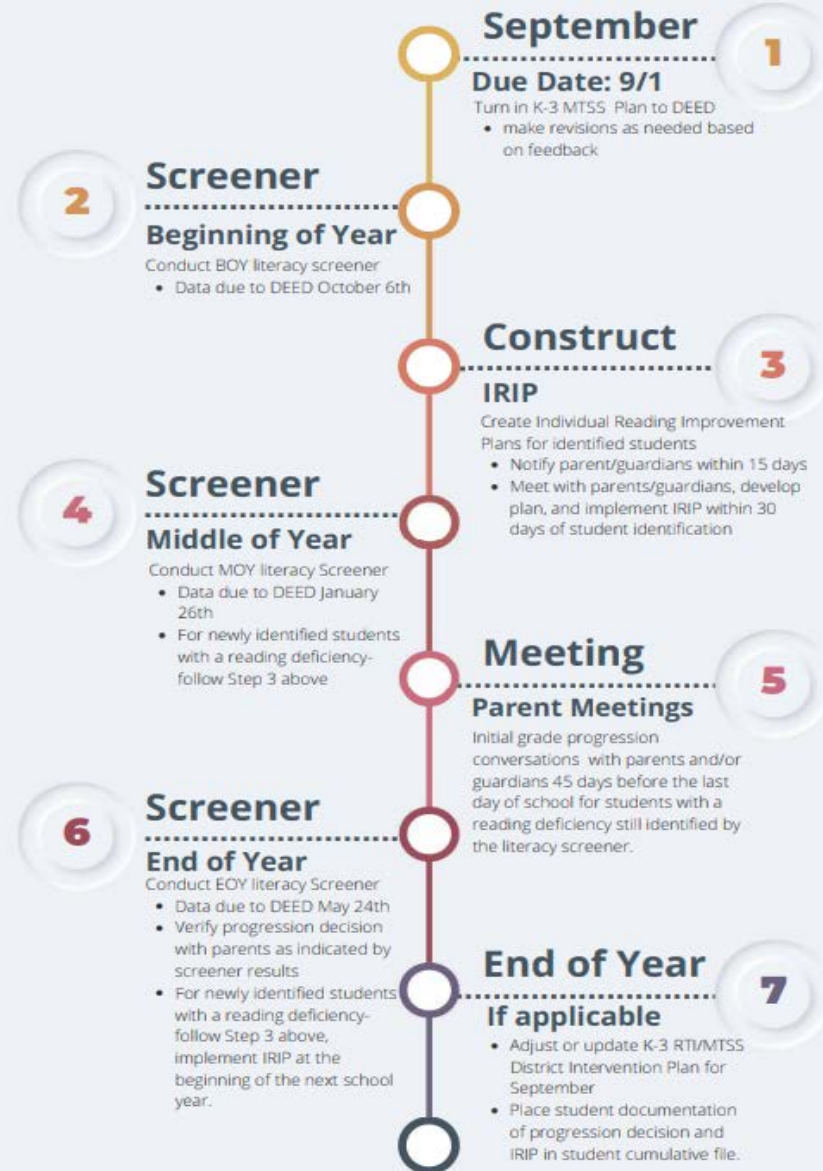
- ▶ To qualify for a K-3 educator endorsement, an applicant shall
- ▶ hold a teacher certificate issued under 4 AAC 12.305;

**AND**

- ▶ Submit a completed reading instruction effectiveness evaluation form certified by a school principal or district representative with knowledge of the teacher's performance to the department - **Time requirement for building principal - unknown cost as tool has not been created.**
- ▶ Submit documentation to the department that the applicant has
  - ▶ completed three semester hours or the equivalent of an evidence-based reading training that includes a summative assessment and is approved by the department.
    - ▶ **No cost for DEED created course.**
    - ▶ **DEED is currently creating the course and the end of course assessment- unknown at this time.**

**OR**

- ▶ achieved or exceeded the required score under 4 AAC 12.407(a) for
  - ▶ (i) the ETS Praxis II Teaching Reading examination, test code 5204; **\$156**
  - ▶ (ii) the ETS Praxis II Teaching Reading: Elementary examination, test code 5205; **\$156**
  - ▶ (iii) the ETS Praxis II Teaching Reading: Elementary examination, test code 5206; **\$156**
  - ▶ or (iv) the Pearson Foundation of Reading examination. **\$139**



Questions and/or Comments

The right side of the slide features a decorative graphic composed of several overlapping, semi-transparent green triangles and polygons. The colors range from a light, pale green to a dark, forest green. The shapes are layered, creating a sense of depth and movement. A thin, light gray line also runs diagonally across the lower right portion of the slide, intersecting the green shapes.