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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Forty-one Schools Recognized as Alaska Reward Schools

JUNEAU – The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development has recognized 41 public schools as 2014-2015 Reward Schools to honor their student performance from the 2013-2014 school year.

The designation is part of Alaska's school accountability system, which identifies schools in need of support and recognizes schools that are the highest performing or show the most growth in student achievement.

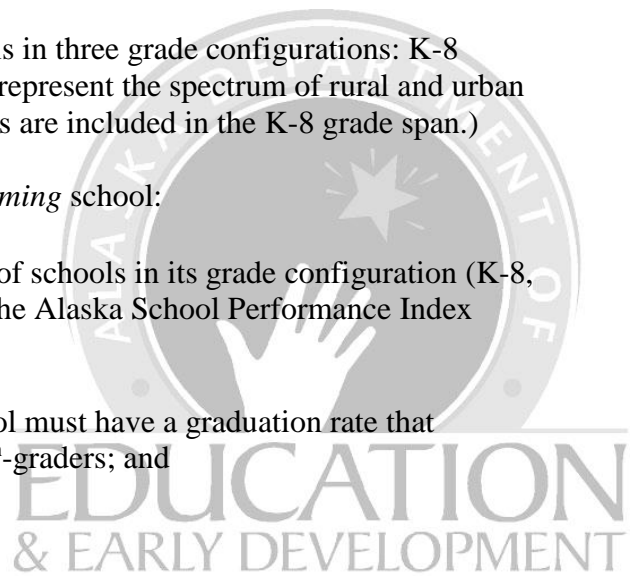
“It is a pleasure to announce Alaska's Reward Schools for 2014-2015, an achievement shared by their families and educators,” said Alaska Education Commissioner Mike Hanley. “Reward Schools strive to meet the academic needs of all students, however large or small the school is. They support students' progress toward the goals of college- and career-readiness and graduation. We congratulate them.”

Reward Schools are recognized in two categories: highest performing and high progress. This school year, 12 schools are highest performing Reward Schools and 41 schools are high progress Reward Schools. Twelve schools are being recognized in both categories, making a total of 41 schools to be named Reward Schools.

Alaska names both categories of Reward Schools in three grade configurations: K-8 schools, 9-12 schools, and K-12 schools. These represent the spectrum of rural and urban schools. (Elementary schools and middle schools are included in the K-8 grade span.)

To qualify for Reward status as a *highest-performing* school:

- the school must be in the top 10 percent of schools in its grade configuration (K-8, 9-12, or K-12) based on its score under the Alaska School Performance Index (explained below);
- over the two most recent years, the school must have a graduation rate that averaged at least 85 percent, if it has 12th-graders; and



- over the two most recent years, the school must have met its goal for increasing the percentage of students who are proficient in reading, writing, and math, for the student body as a whole and all subgroups of students.

To qualify for Reward status as a *high-progress* school:

- the school must be in the highest 10 percent of all schools in the Growth and Proficiency Index (explained below);
- have an average score of at least 95 in the Growth and Proficiency Index over the past three years for all students;
- have an average Growth and Proficiency Index score of at least 90 in the most recent year for the subgroups Alaska Native/American Indian students, economically disadvantaged students, students with disabilities, and English language learners (if there are at least five students in a subgroup);
- the graduation rate must average at least 85 percent over the two most recent years, if the school has 12th-graders.

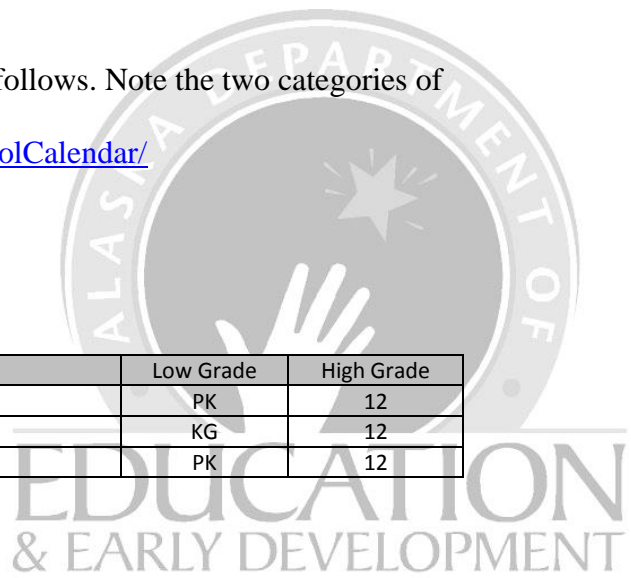
The Alaska School Performance Index measures schools by a combination of data: student achievement on the state’s reading, writing and math assessments; growth in the school’s student body in those assessments from the prior year; and attendance. Schools with high school students also are measured by graduation rates; student performance on college-ready and career-ready assessments such as the SAT, ACT, and WorkKeys; and students’ participation rate in the WorkKeys assessment.

The Growth and Proficiency Index, briefly stated, measures whether a student population in a school is increasing, remaining stable, or declining in achievement in reading, writing, and math from one year to the next. A school receives an index score for its student body as a whole, and scores for each of the four subgroups mentioned above. The index looks at each student’s performance over those two years and creates a combined picture of a school’s performance.

The 2014-2015 Alaska Rewards Schools are as follows. Note the two categories of award. For school contact information, see http://education.alaska.gov/DOE_Rolodex/SchoolCalendar/

Highest Performing Schools

District Name	School Name	Low Grade	High Grade
Aleutians East	False Pass School	PK	12
Denali	Cantwell School	KG	12
Iditarod	Takotna Community School	PK	12



Kenai Peninsula	Aurora Borealis Charter School	KG	8
Kenai Peninsula	Cooper Landing School	KG	12
Lake and Peninsula	Chignik Lagoon School	PK	12
Lake and Peninsula	Igiugig School	PK	12
Matanuska-Susitna	Beryozova School	KG	12
Matanuska-Susitna	John Shaw Elementary	PK	5
Matanuska-Susitna	Mat-Su Career & Tech Ed High School	9	12
Skagway	Skagway School	PK	12
Wrangell	Stikine Middle School	6	8

High Progress Schools

District Name	School Name	Low Grade	High Grade
Aleutians East	False Pass School	PK	12
Anchorage	Aurora Elementary	PK	6
Anchorage	Bayshore Elementary	PK	6
Anchorage	Chugiak Elementary	PK	5
Anchorage	Ravenwood Elementary	PK	6
Chugach	Whittier Community School	PK	12
Denali	Anderson School	KG	12
Denali	Cantwell School	KG	12
Fairbanks	Salcha Elementary	PK	6
Haines	Haines High School	9	12
Iditarod	Takotna Community School	PK	12
Kenai Peninsula	Aurora Borealis Charter School	KG	8
Kenai Peninsula	Cooper Landing School	KG	12
Kenai Peninsula	Fireweed Academy	KG	6
Kenai Peninsula	Nikolaevsk School	PK	12
Kenai Peninsula	Soldotna Montessori Charter School	KG	6
Kenai Peninsula	Sterling Elementary	PK	6
Kenai Peninsula	West Homer Elementary	3	6
Kenai Peninsula	William H. Seward Elementary School	PK	6
Ketchikan	Fawn Mountain Elementary	PK	6
Ketchikan	Houghtaling Elementary	PK	6
Kodiak Island	Karluk School	PK	12
Kodiak Island	Peterson Elementary	PK	5
Lake and Peninsula	Chignik Lagoon School	PK	12
Lake and Peninsula	Igiugig School	PK	12
Lake and Peninsula	Perryville School	PK	12
Lower Kuskokwim	Ayaprun Elitnaurvik	PK	6
Matanuska-Susitna	Beryozova School	KG	12
Matanuska-Susitna	Glacier View School	KG	12
Matanuska-Susitna	John Shaw Elementary	PK	5
Matanuska-Susitna	Mat-Su Career & Tech Ed High School	9	12
Matanuska-Susitna	Pioneer Peak Elementary	PK	5
Matanuska-Susitna	Willow Elementary	PK	6
Skagway	Skagway School	PK	12
Southeast Island	Howard Valentine Coffman Cove School	PK	12
Southeast Island	Naukati School	PK	12
Southeast Island	Port Protection School	PK	12
Southeast Island	Whale Pass School	PK	12
Southwest Region	William "Sonny" Nelson School	PK	8
Unalaska	Unalaska Jr/Sr High School	7	12
Wrangell	Stikine Middle School	6	8