

11/25/2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The System for School Success is Alaska's accountability system designed to celebrate success in our schools and identify areas we can focus on to help provide additional support. This accountability system fulfills the requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to regularly evaluate school efficacy and close gaps in student achievement.

A brief overview of Alaska's accountability system can be found at:

[education.alaska.gov/akaccountability/schoolsuccess/accountabilitysystems.pdf](https://education.alaska.gov/akaccountability/schoolsuccess/accountabilitysystems.pdf).

Alaska's accountability system allows the Department of Education (DEED) and schools to:

- Articulate goals for student achievement, growth, and success
- Collect, analyze, and report on school performance
- Recognize high-performing schools and provide additional support to schools when needed

School report cards can be found on the [Alaska Department of Education and Early Development's website](#) under System for School Success.

As of October, 2024, IDEA received a school designation for the 23-24 school year of Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI). A student group within IDEA performed below the performance threshold. While this is partially related to the testing participation rate – and parents' rights to opt out of testing – IDEA will take this opportunity to reflect on the data, current performance, and current practices to determine what we can do to support this group of students. Any improvements to the systems in place for students will be incorporated into a three year plan that IDEA parents and interested stakeholders helped to build through regional stakeholder collaboration groups this fall. We believe that we can use this opportunity to ensure that our individualized support for students includes adequate resources and strategies for each of our student groups.

#### [Additional Targeted Support and Improvement](#)

([education.alaska.gov/akaccountability/schoolsuccess/TSI-ATSI.pdf](https://education.alaska.gov/akaccountability/schoolsuccess/TSI-ATSI.pdf))

Among the improvements already identified in partnership with stakeholders, IDEA will encourage the use of evidence-based curriculum and interventions, specifically making certain interventions more readily available to students who may need additional support as indicated on screeners and standardized testing.

If you would like more information, or to be involved in future School Improvement discussions, please reach out to IDEA/GCSD using the contact information below.

Sincerely,

Deb Mackie  
IDEA Assistant Director

[Deb.Mackie@ideafamilies.org](mailto:Deb.Mackie@ideafamilies.org)

Melissa Fritsch  
District Test Coordinator

[Melissa.Fritsch@ideafamilies.org](mailto:Melissa.Fritsch@ideafamilies.org)

Dean O'Dell  
IDEA Director

[Dean.ODell@ideafamilies.org](mailto:Dean.ODell@ideafamilies.org)