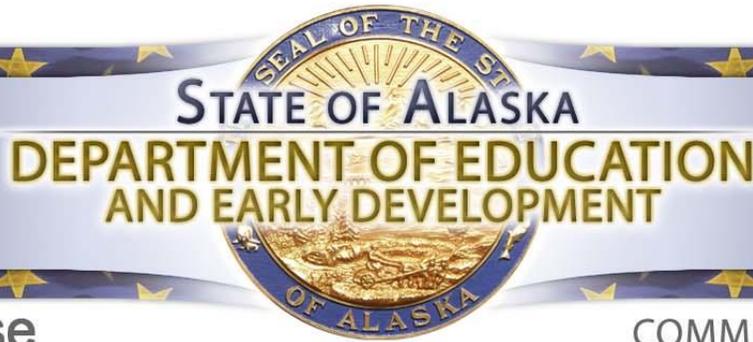


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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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State Releases 2014 School Ratings

JUNEAU – The Alaska Department of Education & Early Development has released this year's school ratings under the Alaska School Performance Index (ASPI). The ratings are based on student performance in school year 2013-2014. This is the second year for the Alaska-developed ASPI accountability and support system, which replaced the federal Adequate Yearly Progress system under No Child Left Behind.

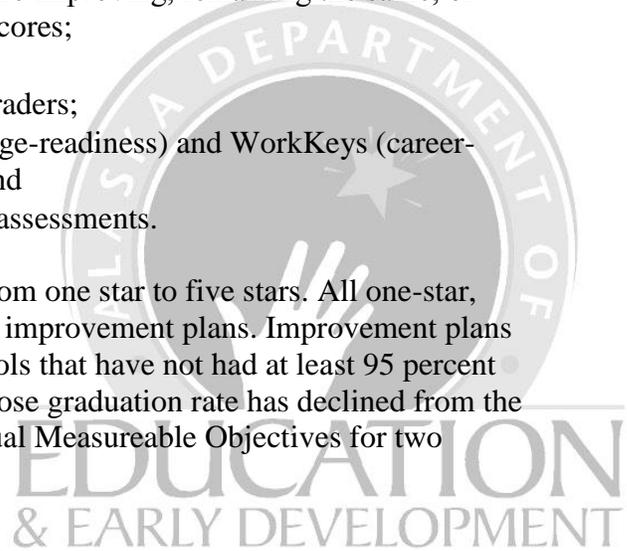
Seventy-five of 501 rated schools earned five stars, the highest rating; 198 schools are four-star schools; 149 schools are three-star schools; 52 schools are two-star schools; and 27 schools are one-star schools. Collectively, nearly 93 percent of students attended schools in 2013-2014 that earned three stars or above.

Comprehensive information about ASPI, including this year's and last year's school ratings, is at: <http://education.alaska.gov/akaccountability/>. Click on the School Accountability – ASPI tab.

Under ASPI, schools earn points on a 100-point scale. The score is based on:

- student proficiency in state reading, writing, and math assessments in grades 3-10;
- the degree to which a school's students are improving, remaining the same, or declining in reading, writing, and math scores;
- attendance;
- graduation rates if the school has 12th-graders;
- student scores on SATs and ACTs (college-readiness) and WorkKeys (career-readiness) assessments in high school; and
- student participation rates in WorkKeys assessments.

Based on the ASPI score, each school is rated from one star to five stars. All one-star, two-star, and three-star schools must implement improvement plans. Improvement plans also are required for four-star and five-star schools that have not had at least 95 percent student participation in state assessments; or whose graduation rate has declined from the previous year; or which have not met their Annual Measureable Objectives for two



consecutive years. The last two criteria apply to the school as a whole and subgroups of students.

The subgroups are: students with disabilities, English language learners, economically disadvantaged students, Alaska Natives and American Indians, Caucasians, African-Americans, Hispanics, Mixed Race, and Asian/Pacific Islanders.

Each school also has the goal of reducing its percentage of non-proficient students by half over six years, in yearly increments. The goals are called Annual Measureable Objectives (AMOs). The AMOs apply to the student body as a whole and to subgroups.

For more information, contact Erik McCormick, Director of Assessment, Accountability and Information Management, at erik.mccormick@alaska.gov or 907-465-8686.

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