

# Native Education State Profiles

## Alaska



### Report Summary

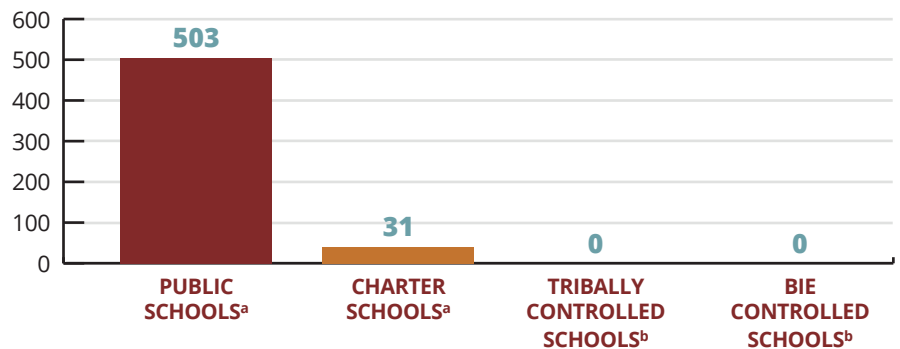
The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides tribes and states an important opportunity to advance tribal sovereignty and create positive and inclusive learning environments for Native students. Schools and Native communities must collaborate to ensure students are college, career, and community ready. As the only national organization advocating for improved educational opportunities for Native students, the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) supports and builds partnerships between Native and allied stakeholders that provide opportunities for Native students to thrive in the classroom and beyond. This state profile is available to NIEA membership, tribal leadership, educators, and allies to provide important information and highlight available resources that may be of assistance in advocacy work.

### State Leadership

<b>Mike Dunleavy</b> <i>Governor</i>	The Governor appoints members of the State Board of Education with the Legislature's confirmation.
<b>Dr. Michael Johnson</b> <i>Commissioner of Education</i>	The Commissioner of Education is appointed by the State Board of Education, with approval by the Governor.
<b>Joel Isaak</b> <i>State-Tribal Education Compacting Project Coordinator</i>	The Indian Education contact works under the Commissioner of Education within Department of Education.

### District Snapshot

Number of School Districts: 54<sup>a</sup>



### Where Do Native Students Attend School?<sup>c</sup>



**PUBLIC**  
27,617  
students

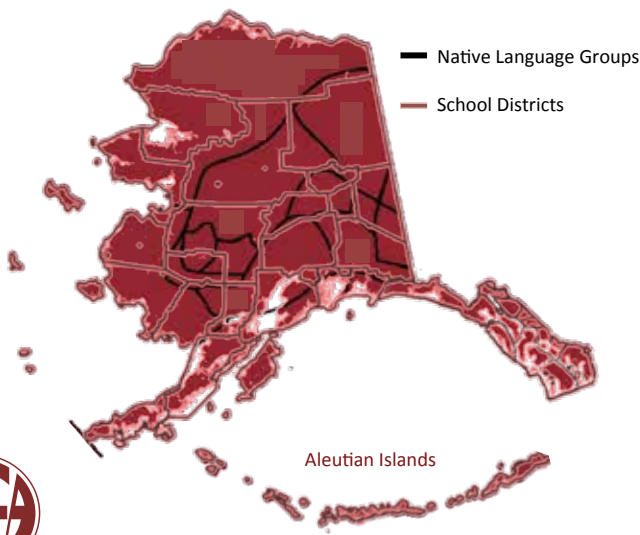


**CHARTER**  
946  
students



**BIE FUNDED**  
0  
students

### Alaska School Districts



	Student Enrollment <sup>c</sup>	Student Enrollment <sup>c</sup>
<b>Native</b>	28,563	22.0%
<b>Total</b>	129,872	100%

### Federally Recognized Tribes

There are 229 federally recognized tribes within Alaska that speak 22 different languages.

In 1971, the United States Congress created the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971, which divided tribes within Alaska into 12 regions and created regional corporations. In addition, ANCSA established a thirteenth corporation for Alaska Natives who live outside of the state.



# Alaska Native Education Legislation

1972

The Alaska Bilingual Language Education Act establishes Native language and culture in Alaska schools.

1972

The Alaska Native Language Center is established at the University of Alaska to revitalize Native languages.

1976

*Tobeluk v. Lind* affirmed the right for Alaska Native students to pursue high school education in their own communities.

2001

Millennium Agreement states that the Alaska will consult with recognized tribal nations on policy issues in Alaska.

2016

Alaska begins to develop draft state plans to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act.

2022

Alaska opens applications to the Alaska Native Education Program to meet the unique needs of Alaska Native students.

## Equal Opportunities

National Statistics (%)					
	AI/AN	Black	Hispanic	White	Asian
Attend Rural Schools <sup>c</sup>	24	3	2	9	1
Students with Disabilities <sup>d</sup>	15	15	13	12	7
Children in Poverty <sup>e</sup>	31	32	26	11	11
Full-Time Teachers <sup>f</sup>	0.5	7	9	79	2
High School Graduation Rate <sup>g</sup>	74	80	82	89	93

Alaska Statistics (%)					
	AI/AN	Black	Hispanic	White	Asian
Attend Rural Schools <sup>c</sup>	70	12	16	32	20
Students with Disabilities <sup>d</sup>	30	15	12	12	8
Children in Poverty <sup>e</sup>	14	19	13	8	14
Full-Time Teachers <sup>f</sup>	10	*	2	81	1
High School Graduation Rate <sup>g</sup>	68	79	80	86	90

## Engage

### Language Immersion Programs

Many public schools throughout Alaska offer courses in Native languages due to the passage of the Alaska Bilingual Education Act of 1971. These schools usually teach the Alaska Native language most common among students in their region.

### ESSA Working Groups

Find out more about how Alaska is fulfilling ESSA requirements through its stakeholder engagement on state standards, accountability, and school improvement for the state plan.

**Website:** [education.alaska.gov/akessa/](http://education.alaska.gov/akessa/)

**ESSA Contact:** Dr. Susan McCauley **Phone:** (907) 419-3745

## Alaska Student Profile

### Young Children<sup>h</sup>

32%

of the American Indian and Alaska Native population is under the age of 18.

9%

of American Indians and Alaska Natives in Alaska are under the age of 5.

### Higher Education

1

Tribal College serves just over 232 students in Alaska.<sup>i</sup>

11.3%

of American Indian and Alaska Natives\*\* in Alaska have a Bachelors degree or higher.<sup>j</sup>

### Connectivity<sup>j</sup>

10.9%

of American Indians and Alaska Natives\*\* in Alaska do not have access to a personal computer.

22.7%

of American Indians and Alaska Natives\*\* in Alaska do not have access to a broadband internet subscription.

### Percent Reading Proficiency Among...<sup>k</sup>

	4th Grade Students	8th Grade Students
Alaska Native	9	9
Alaska	25	23
United States	35	34

## Sources

- a. National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), Common Core of Data (CCD), "Local Education Agency (School District) Universe Survey", 2020-21 v.1a;
- b. BIE 2022, <https://www.bie.edu/schools/directory>.
- c. NCES, CCD, "Public Elementary/Secondary School Universe Survey", 2020-21 v.1a.
- d. US Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey (ACS), Tables B14007B, C, D, E, H, and I; US Department of Education, EDData Data Warehouse: "IDEA Part B Child Count and Educational Environments Collection," 2020-21. From file specifications 002 and 089.
- e. US Census Bureau, 2020 ACS, Tables B17001B, C, D, E, H, and I.
- f. NCES, National Teacher and Principal Survey, "Public School Teacher Data File," 2017-18.
- g. NCES, EDData file 150, Data Group 695, and EDData file 151, Data Group 696, 2013-14 through 2018-19.
- h. US Census Bureau, 2020 ACS, Table B01001C.
- i. NCES, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, 2019, Table 312.50.
- j. US Census Bureau, 2019 ACS, Table S0201.
- k. U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2019 Reading Assessment.

\* Indicates too few respondents for statistical significance.  
 \*\* Indicates the measure includes multiracial AI/ANs.

