

Virtual School

An Alaska Virtual School, operated at the state level, is critical to support reading development in small rural communities. Reading specialists, summer schools, counseling, and academic programs become available, where previously out of reach. DEED needs to create regulation to establish an Alaskan Virtual School. A year round reading program becomes accessible with VS teachers. Local hire non-certified support personnel can be hired conduct summer programs and Compact agreements designed to provide reading incentive programs.

While a state program will offer new course selection supported by certified teachers and also school choice to rural communities, it is important to not interfere with already established VS programs. Several school district have very effective virtual programs. Effective DEED regulation and funding formula changes will create a virtual school that address inequity among small schools, provides a stronger learning environment, and support for already established programs. Virtual School is essential for equity in rural schools in rural communities.