



# Alaska Native Language Literacy Update

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Łiq'a yes, Joel Isaak, Deputy Commissioner

April 10, 2024

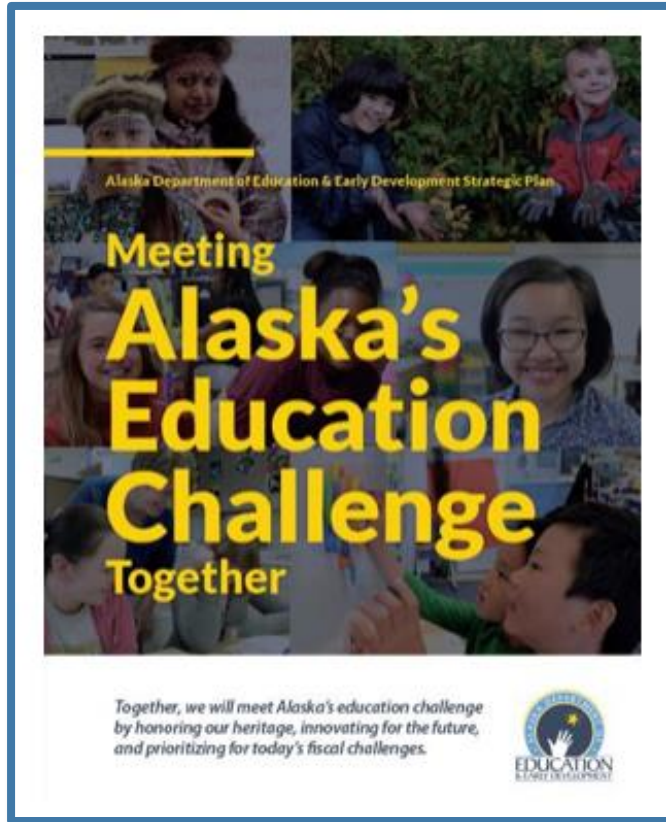
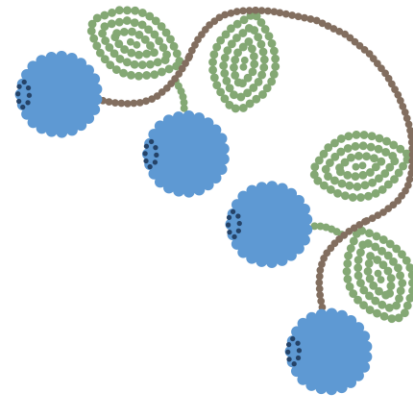


# Mission, Vision, and Purpose



Mission	Vision	Purpose
An excellent education for every student every day.	All students will succeed in their education and work, shape worthwhile and satisfying lives for themselves, exemplify the best values of society, and be effective in improving the character and quality of the world about them. - Alaska Statute 14.03.015	DEED exists to provide <b>information, resources, and leadership</b> to support an excellent education for every student every day.

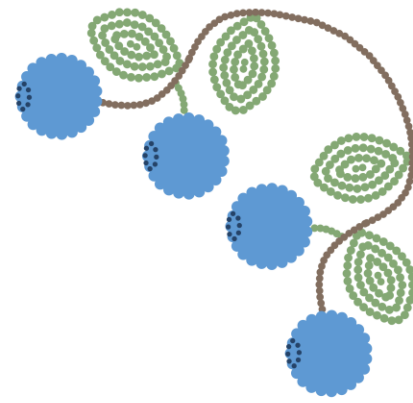
# Alaska's Education Challenge



## Five Shared Strategic Priorities:

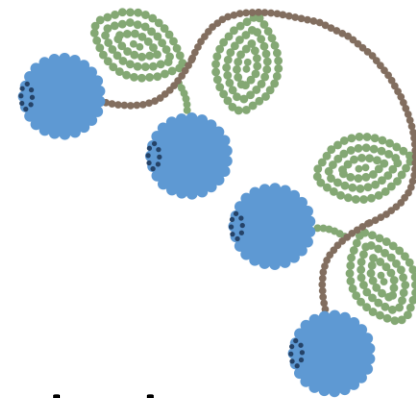
1. Support all students to read at grade level by the end of third grade
2. Increase career, technical, and culturally relevant education to meet student and workforce needs
3. Close the achievement gap by ensuring equitable educational rigor and resources
4. Prepare, attract, and retain effective education professionals
5. Improve the safety and well-being of students through school partnerships with families, communities, and tribes

# Agenda



- **Nudench'tidałtey** *We Are Growing Stronger Again - Community of Practice*
- Alaska Native Language Literacy Guidebook
- Alaska Native Language Arts: Reading k-3 Standards
- Alaska Native Language Literacy Screeners
- **Naqenaga Ts'it Nich'tidulał** *We Are Bringing Our Languages Together* – Alaska Native Language Summit

# Overview



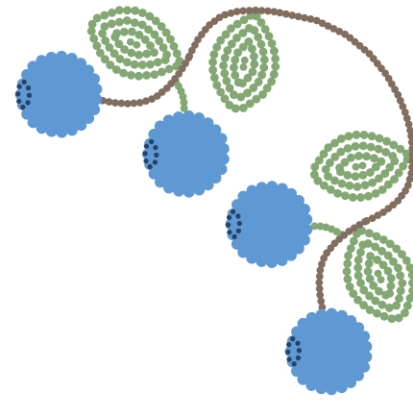
The Department of Education and Early Development Alaska Native Language Literacy efforts are designed to promote literacy in Alaska Native Languages. The goal is to provide support to districts, teachers, families, and departmental staff to collaborate towards a common outcome of developing literacy in Alaska Native Languages.

# Nakon' tnestnak – The Fire is Going Out

“Now today we have been thrown together, put into this predicament we need to support each other. The fire is going out, everywhere in Alaska.” Markle Pete, Ahtna Dene (2009)

Reference: (Ahtna metaphor: the Elders are passing away) Yenida'a Tah, Ts'utsaede, K'adiide, 2018 Alaska Native Language Center

# Alaska Native Strategic Plan



- 1) Alaska Native Language Community of Practice (ANLCP)
- 2) ANL Literacy Guidebook
- 3) Alaska Native Language Summit
- 4) Survey/Information Gatherings: Language Program Contact Information
- 5) Alaska Native Language Arts Regulations/Standards Development
- 6) DEED Internal Support:
  - i. DEED Tribal Advisory Commission
  - ii. Internal DEED Language Training
  - iii. Office of Tribal Affairs Staff Dedicate to Alaska Native Language Literacy
- 7) Website Redesign



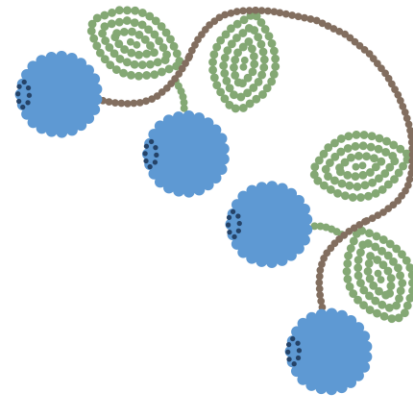
# Alaska Native Strategic Plan



- 1) Teacher Licensure and continuing education credits: Multi-Cultural Classes Including AK Native Language
- 2) Webinar (Reads Act): Reading in World Languages
- 3) How to start a Tribal School/Language School:
  - i. Immersion, Dual Language, Language Medium
  - ii. Include Definitions of What These Are
- 4) Course Credit Templates
- 5) Materials Development:
  - i. Zero Credit College Courses
  - ii. Bilingual Publication
  - iii. Publication Supports



# Alaska Native Strategic Plan



## 1) DEED Professional/District Support:

- i. Updating Districts on Recent Regulations
- ii. Reads Act Components: Unpack and Produce How to Guides To Start This.
- iii. More AK Native Resources Including Items Scoped and Sequenced Items.

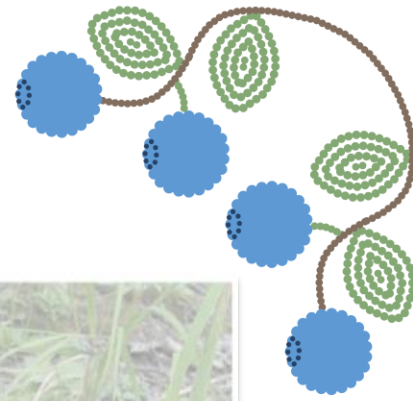
## 2) Alaska Native Language Teacher Certification

## 3) Alaska Native Language High School Graduation Requirement

## 4) Reads Act

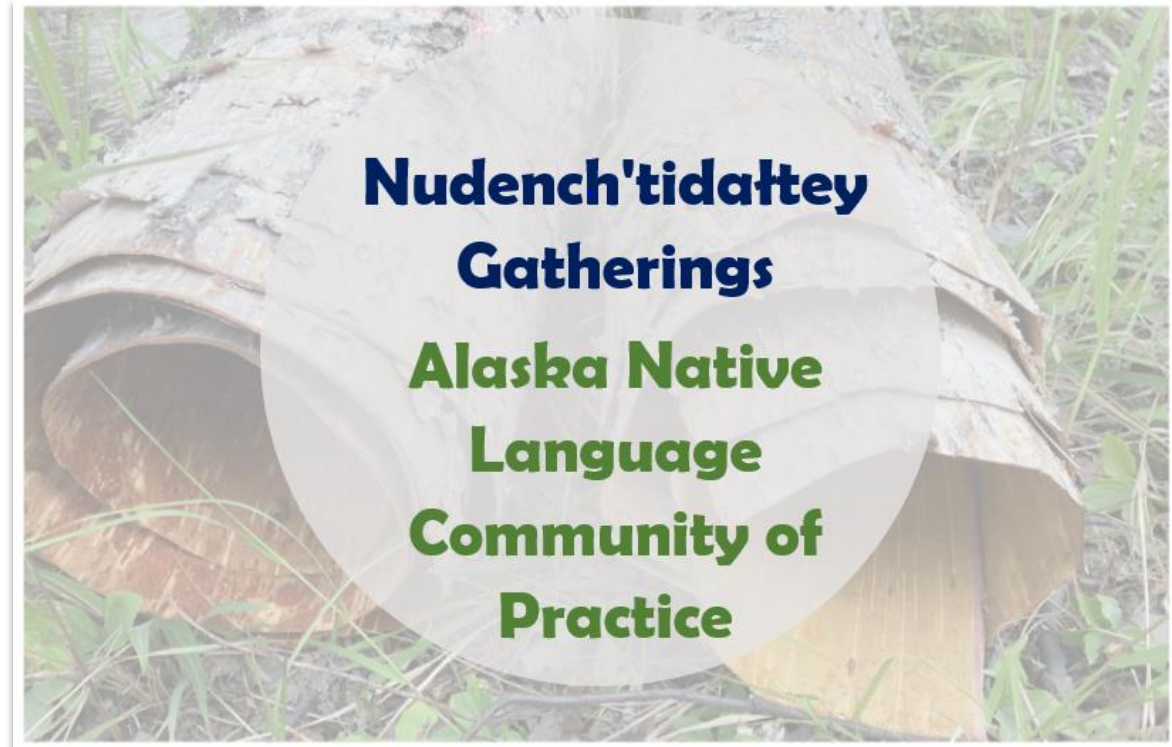
## 5) Indigenous Teacher Certification/Licensure

# Community of Practice



**Nudench'tidałtey** – *We Are Growing Stronger Again*

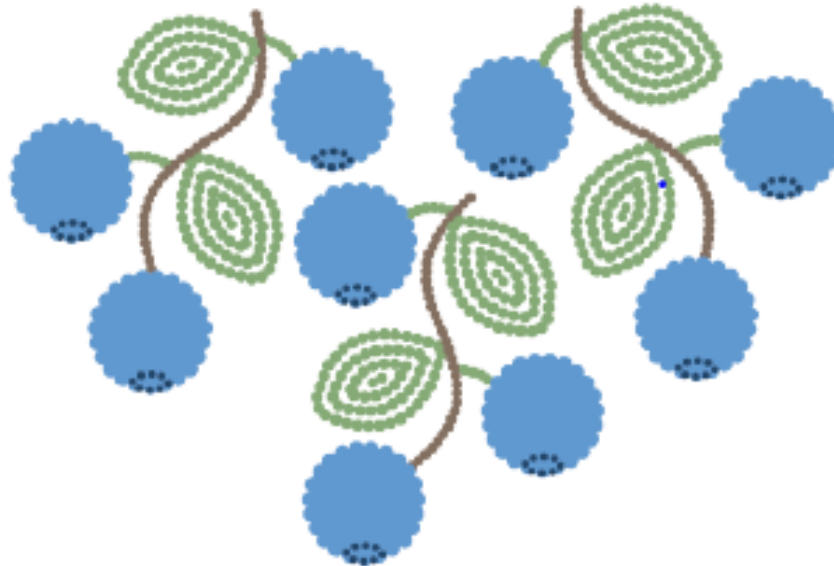
- Supporting
- Share Resources
- Discuss Language Topics
- Co-design
- Share Collaborative Space



To learn more about the community of practice email: [Kari.shaginoff@alaska.gov](mailto:Kari.shaginoff@alaska.gov)

# Alaska Native Language Literacy Guidebook

## An Introduction



# Alaska Native Language Literacy Guidebook

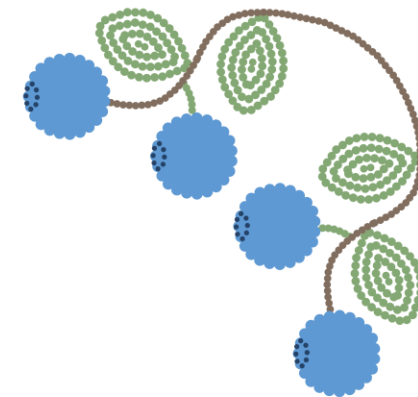


- Helps in navigating the context of Alaska Native Language literacy landscape
- Demonstrates Examples of Teaching the 5 Pillars of the Science of Reading in Alaska Native Languages
- Helps Educators Learn More About How to Teach Literacy in Alaska Native Languages and Other Cultures

# Alaska Native Language Literacy Guidebook

## Introductory Preview

- Forward
- Landscape: Why a Guidebook
- Alaska Native Language Connections
- Impacts of Monolingual Reading and Writing
- Wellness-Driven Outcomes
- References



# K-3 Alaska Native Language Arts Reading Standards



The purpose of this project is to develop Alaska Native Language Arts Standards for kindergarten through 3rd grade for adoption by the Alaska State Board of Education. These developed standards will provide a critical support for instruction of Alaska Native languages because the standards will make it clear that reading in Alaska Native language is valid for demonstrating 3rd grade reading proficiency.

# Alaska Native Language Literacy Screeners



## Year 1- 2

- First Four Languages (Yup'ik, Inupiaq, and Tlingit)

## Year 3

- First Three Languages: Activities
- First Three Languages: Reporting and Documentation
- Second Batch of 4-6 Languages: Activities

## Year 4

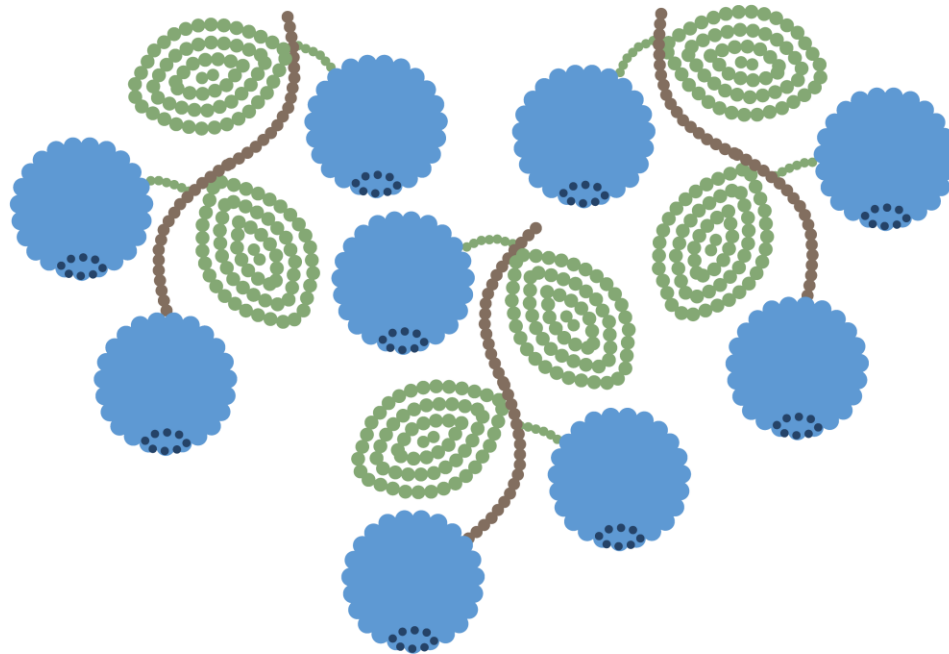
- Second Batch of 4-6 Languages: Activities
- Second Batch of 4-6 Languages: Reporting and Documentation

## Year 5

- 1-6 Languages: Activities, Reporting, and Documentation concludes
- Sustainability



# 2024 ALASKA NATIVE LANGUAGE SUMMIT



Naqenaga Ts'it Nich'tidulat

WE ARE BRINGING OUR  
LANGUAGES BACK TOGETHER

# Alaska Native Language Summit



**Naqenaga Ts'it̚ Nich'tidulať**

***We Are Bringing Our Languages Together***

Alaska Native Language Summit

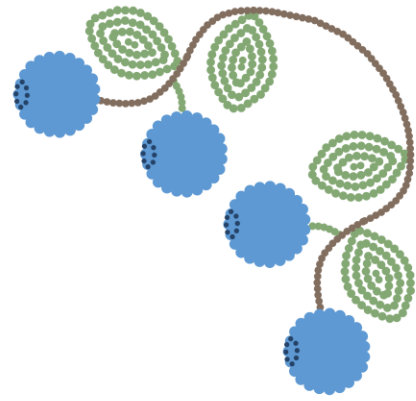
Thursday, April 18, 2024

Dena'ina Civic Convention Center, Anchorage, Alaska

**For more information contact: [kari.shaginoff@alaska.gov](mailto:kari.shaginoff@alaska.gov)**



# Conclusion



**“It takes one generation to  
lose a language and three  
generations to regain it back.”**

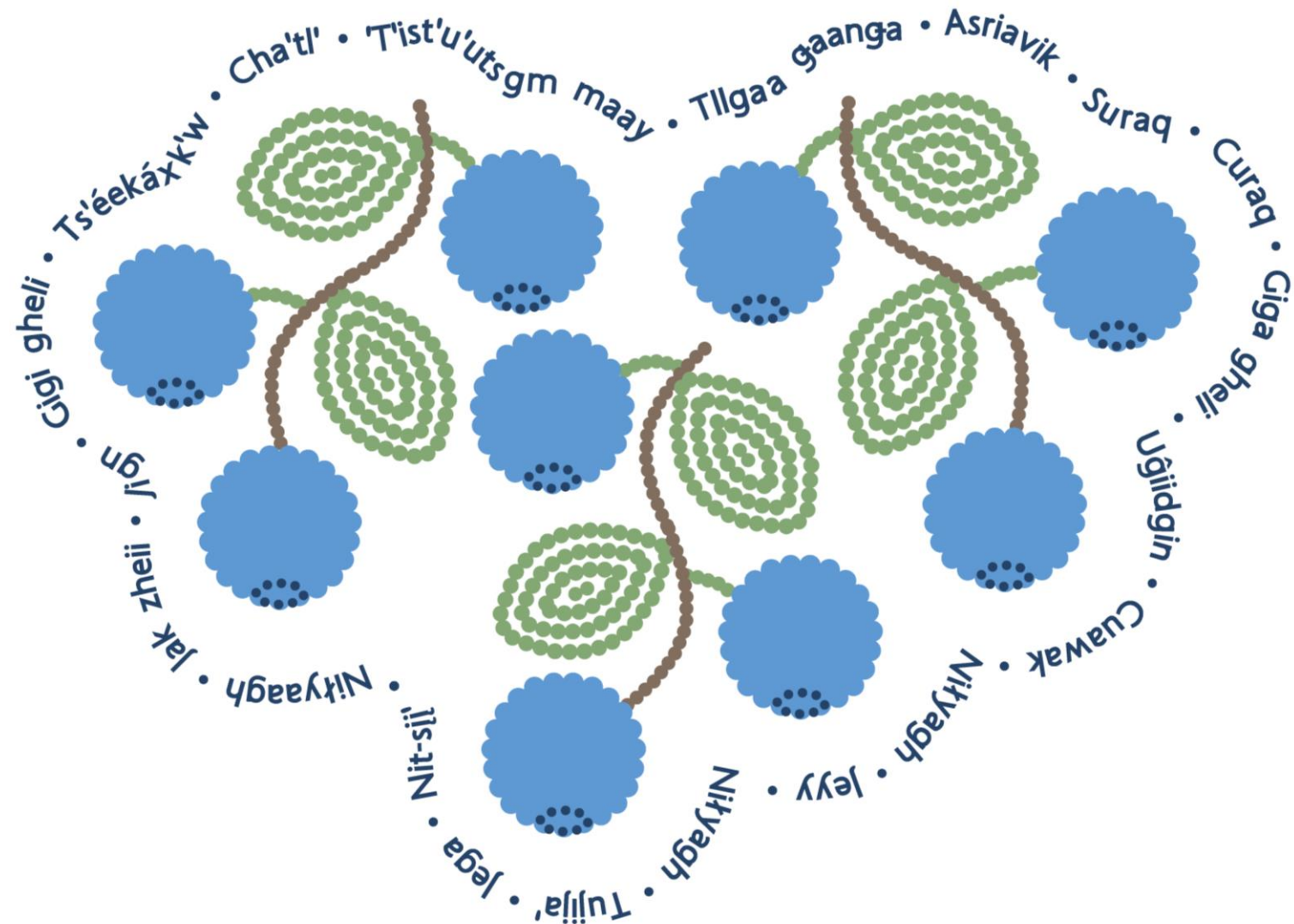
**Keiki Kawai'ae'a, Ph.D.  
Director of Ka Haka  
"Ula o Ke'elikōlani  
College of Hawaiian Language  
University of Hawai'i Hilo**

# Contact Information

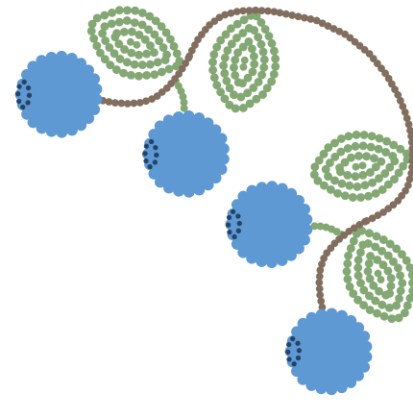
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(907) 500-4612



# Stay Connected



## Find us online:

- Our website: [education.alaska.gov](http://education.alaska.gov)
- Facebook and Twitter: @AlaskaDEED

## Give us a ring:

- Main line: (907) 465-2800
- Teacher Certification: (907) 465-2831