

## **Bering Strait School District English Language Arts Reading and Writing Programs**

Bering Strait School District adheres to the 2012 Alaska English Language Arts Standards (AKELAS). Even though Alaska did not adopt the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), 90% of the AKELAS are aligned to the CCSS.

The AKELAS key instructional expectations for K-5 foundational skills are that students meet the standards in those five components of reading: Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Vocabulary, Fluency, and Comprehension. These foundational skills describe the concepts students need to acquire to become proficient in decoding text and be successful readers. Students should master the foundational skills by the end of 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

### **Bering Strait School District English Language Arts Program:**

In 2014, the Bering Strait School District adopted **National Geographic Learning Reach for Reading**. It is a Common Core K-5 reading and writing program that focuses on building the foundational skills, such as phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, and basic writing skills. It teaches students to comprehend text, make meaning from text, and think critically about the text and transform those meanings with a purpose. Embedded in the program are routines, strategies, teacher modeling, extensive practice, feedback, and opportunities for application across a variety of literary and informational texts. The program offers whole group and small group instruction, using a student anthology, a level reading library, and Comprehension Coach.

In addition, *Reach for Reading* gears toward English language learners (ELL). Its emphasis is on language, vocabulary, and scaffolded support, which is particularly important for ELL. Furthermore, differentiation within the teacher's edition specifically targets this group of students. Moreover, the program provides substantial practice for special education students, working with grade level texts, using scaffolds and supports to make the materials accessible. Lastly, support is provided for high ability students foundational reading instruction at the core level first, then the reading selections move forward in text complexity.

In 2014, Bering Strait School District adopted **National Geographic Learning Inside Language, Literacy, and Content**. It is the Alaska State Standards Core 6-8 reading and language arts program that provides comprehensive instruction and accessible content for middle school students who have not mastered essential reading, writing and language skills and who are typically reading two or more years below grade level. The program provides students with the skills they need to succeed. The program motivates readers through engaging, high-interest, multicultural literature and compelling nonfiction selections, presented in thematic units organized around big ideas that are relevant to students. Additionally, *Inside* includes readabilities to quickly and effectively move students to grade-level achievement.

In 2017, Bering Strait School District adopted **SpringBoard English Language Arts**. It is a core curriculum for all students in grades 9–12. The instructional program is aligned to college readiness standards to prepare students for college. The program is presented with

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literary and informational texts, writing, grammar and vocabulary, teaching strategies, activities, assessments, and a broad range of tools and resources to support teachers and students. Also available are clear learning targets for students to understand the importance of developing those skills.

The program is made up of four to five thematic units, and each unit takes approximately six weeks to complete. Each unit guides students through multiple texts that include an in-depth study of one novel and one play. Furthermore, there is an emphasis on close reading and literary analysis. The close reading includes short texts that are taught in four to six weeks. Students complete 15 to 20 class-length activities per unit.