

Population

Communities included in the Ahtna region for determining population are those communities served by the Copper River Schools and the Denali Borough Schools Districts. (Alaska Gateway Schools has some students residing in the Ahtna geographic region, but these students are all included in the Doyon region indicators.) Communities are as follows:

Anderson city	Coperville CDP	Kenny Lake CDP	Silver Springs CDP
Cantwell CDP	Ferry CDP	McCarthy CDP	Slana CDP
Chisana CDP	Gakona CDP	McKinley Park CDP	Tazlina CDP
Chistochina CDP	Glennallen CDP	Mendeltna CDP	Tolsona CDP
Chitina CDP	Gulkana CDP	Nelchina CDP	Tonsina CDP
Copper Center CDP	Healy CDP	Paxson CDP	Willow Creek CDP

Note: CDP is the U.S. Census Bureau abbreviation for Census Designated Place.

It is estimated that the population of the Ahtna region has grown by 4.3 percent (204 people) between Census 2000 and 2003. Less than 4 percent of the Ahtna region's population were identified as Alaska Natives, alone or in combination with some other race, for Census 2000. The Alaska Native population is greater than that shown in the following table, but Census 2000 sampling and suppression of data for communities with small populations may cause an undercount of the actual population.

25.1 percent of the Ahtna region's total population are of school age (5 to 19 years), but fully 37 percent of the region's Native population are of school age.

Table 20
Ahtna Region, Demographics Profile, Census 2000 and 2003 Estimates

	Total Population		Alaska Native Alone or in combination with some other race	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Population				
2003 estimate	4,930	--	--	--
Census 2000	4,726	--	176	3.7%
Change	+204	+4.3%	--	--
Gender (Census 2000)				
Male	2,612	55.3%	85	48.3%
Female	2,114	44.7	91	51.7
Age (Census 2000)				
< 5 years	290	6.1%	16	9.1%
5 - 14 years	803	17.0	45	25.6
15 - 19 years	383	8.1	20	11.4
20 - 34 years	728	15.4	27	15.3
35 - 44 years	902	19.1	19	10.8
45 - 64 years	1,312	27.8	31	17.6
65 or more years	308	6.5	18	10.2

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

Note: Total population for Census 2000 includes Alaska Natives, alone or in combination with some other race. Age, gender, and ethnicity information is not available from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development's 2003 population estimates.

School Inventory and Enrollment

Public school enrollment is the count of students enrolled on October 1, 2003 for the 2003-2004 school year. Therefore, students leaving or entering a school after October 1, 2003 are not reflected in the enrollment figure.

There are two school districts and 12 public schools in the Ahtna region. Native enrollment for the 2003-2004 school year represented 17.8 percent of the 1,256 total enrollment.

In the 2002-2003 school year, Alaska Native student enrollment made up 21.7 percent of a total enrollment of 1,000 students.

Alaska Native "students with disabilities" represented 37.5 percent (63 students) of all students enrolled with disabilities (168 students) in the Ahtna region.

Private schools are not required by law to report their enrollments to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. However, according to the one school (Sapa Christian School in Copper Center) that volunteered this information, 11 students were enrolled in private schools. This enrollment figure is not a complete and accurate count of students enrolled in Ahtna region private schools.

Table 21
Ahtna Region
Public School Enrollment by School, District and Ethnicity
2003 – 2004 School Year

Districts and School Name	Alaska Native		All Other		Total Number
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Copper River Schools					
Chistochina School	9	81.8%	2	18.2%	11
Copper Center School	31	60.8	20	39.2	51
Copper River Correspondence School	9	6.7	126	93.3	135
Gakona Elementary	10	58.8	7	41.2	17
Glennallen Elementary	34	27.4	90	72.6	124
Glennallen Jr/Sr High School	77	41.6	108	58.4	185
Kenny Lake School	29	21.6	105	78.4	134
Slana School	1	7.1	13	92.9	14
Denali Borough Schools					
Anderson School	3	3.4	86	96.6	89
Cantwell School	7	26.9	19	73.1	26
Denali Correspondence School	1	0.4	273	99.6	274
Tri-Valley School	13	6.6	183	93.4	196
Ahtna Region Total	224	17.8%	1,032	82.2%	1,256
Comparison to Previous Year					
Ahtna Totals 2002-2003 School Year	217	21.7%	783	78.3%	1,000
Number Change	+7		+249		+256
Percent Change	+3.2%		+31.8%		+25.6%

Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

Average Daily Attendance Rates

The Ahtna region schools had average daily attendance rates of 94.8 percent for the 2003-2004 school year. This represents a slight increase (+0.9 percent) over the 2002-2003 school year.

The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development measures attendance rates by taking the sum of all days present for all students in a school for the year and dividing this by the sum of all days present and all days absent for all students in a school for the year. This information is not available by ethnicity.

*Table 22
Ahtna Region
Average Daily Attendance Rates by School
2001 – 2002, 2002 – 2003, and 2003 – 2004 School Years*

District and School Name	Attendance Rate (percentage)			Percent Change from 2002-2003 to 2003-2004
	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	
<i>Copper River Schools</i>	93.6%	94.2%	93.3%	-0.9%
Chistochina School	78.8	90.0	91.8	+1.8
Copper Center School	85.6	85.6	89.9	+4.3
Copper River Corresp.	100.0	100.0	100.0	0.0
Gakona Elementary	N/A	90.3	96.1	+5.8
Glennallen Elementary	91.8	91.8	92.4	+0.6
Glennallen Jr/Sr High School	95.4	97.4	87.1	-10.4
Kenny Lake School	91.8	91.8	97.1	+5.2
Slana School	78.3	86.0	94.5	+8.4
<i>Denali Borough Schools</i>	93.2%	91.6%	96.3%	+4.7%
Anderson School	93.0	91.4	92.1	+0.8
Cantwell School	91.9	92.3	91.0	-1.3
Denali Correspondence School	N/A	100.0	100.0	0.0
<i>Ahtna Region Average</i>	93.5%	93.8%	94.8%	+0.9%

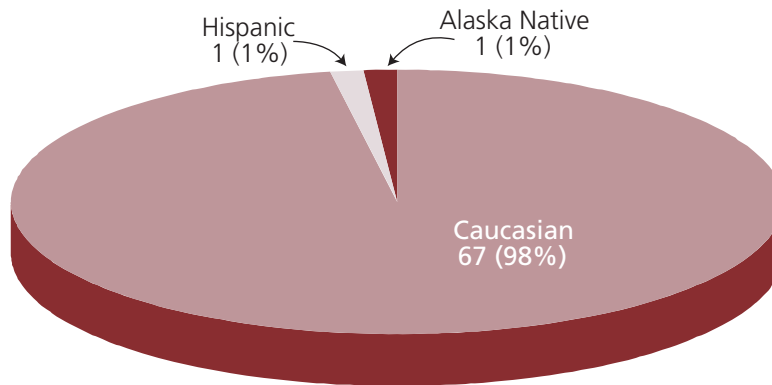
Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

Notes: N/A = Not Available

Teacher Ethnicity

There were 69 teachers (including teachers, head teachers, visiting teachers and remedial specialists) in the Ahtna region schools for the 2003-2004 school year. One teacher was Alaska Native, the same number of Alaska Native teachers as in the 2002-2003 school year.

Figure 12
Ahtna Region
Number and Percent of Teachers by Ethnicity
2003 – 2004 School Year



Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

Educator Turnover

For this report, “educator turnover” includes instances in which a superintendent, principal, or teacher changes his or her job classification within the same school (for instance, a teacher becomes a principal) and/or leaves the school where he or she worked from the 2002-2003 school year to the 2003-2004 school year.

The following table provides educator turnover rates, broken out by superintendents and principals combined and by teachers for the two school districts that are included in the Ahtna region. The category of teachers includes: teacher, head teacher, visiting teacher, and remedial specialist.

Superintendent/principal turnover in the Ahtna region was 20 percent, and teacher turnover was 21.7 percent.

*Table 23
Ahtna Region
Educator Turnover by School District
Between 2002 – 2003 and 2003 – 2004 School Years*

District Name	Teachers			Superintendents/Principals		
	Number Employed	Turnover Number	Turnover Percent	Number Employed	Turnover Number	Turnover Percent
Copper River Schools	38	4	10.5%	3	1	33.3%
Denali Borough Schools	31	11	35.5	2	0	0
Ahtna Region Total	69	15	21.7%	5	1	20.0%

Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

List of Schools Making AYP

All 12 Ahtna region schools made adequate yearly progress in the 2003-2004 school year. Two of these schools (Copper River Correspondence and Glennallen Jr./Sr. High School) did not make adequate yearly progress in the 2002-2003 school year.

The table below shows which schools in the Ahtna region made adequate yearly progress for the school year 2003-2004. This table also indicates whether the school had met AYP in the 2002-2003 school year.

*Table 24
Ahtna Region
Public Schools Making AYP by School District
2003 – 2004 School Year*

School Name and City	Met AYP in 2002-2003 School Year
Copper River Schools	
Chistochina School, Glennallen	Yes
Copper Center School, Copper Center	Yes
Copper River Correspondence, Glennallen	No
Gakona Elementary, Gakona	Yes
Glennallen Elementary, Glennallen	Yes
Glennallen Jr/Sr High School, Glennallen	No
Kenny Lake School, Copper Center	Yes
Slana School, Slana	Yes
Denali Borough Schools	
Anderson School, Anderson	Yes
Cantwell School, Cantwell	Yes
Denali Correspondence School, Healy	Yes
Tri-Valley School, Healy	Yes

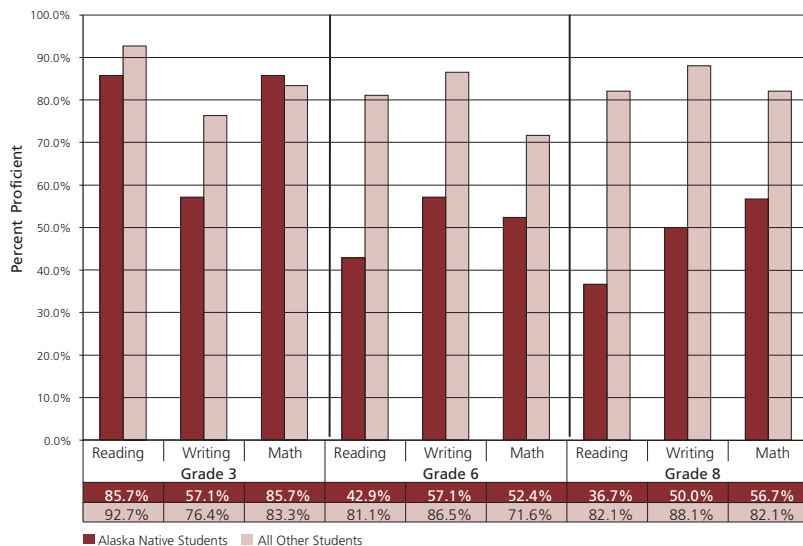
Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

Benchmark Examinations

School districts included in the Ahtna region are the Copper River Schools and the Denali Borough Schools. Alaska Gateway Schools have some students residing in the Ahtna geographic region, but these students are all included in the Doyon region indicators.

The table below shows the benchmark examination results for students enrolled in the third, sixth, and eighth grades. Alaska Native students have significantly lower test results for all grades and subjects than do students of all other ethnicities combined.

Figure 13
Ahtna Region
Benchmark Examination Results by Ethnicity, 2003 – 2004 School Year



Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

Comparisons of Ahtna region benchmark examination results between the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 school years for Alaska Native student performance are found in the table below. The two school years may not be directly comparable because some data were not available, if they might have revealed an individual student's performance. Other variables may include opening and closing of schools within regions and varying student populations for Grades 3, 6, and 8.

Table 25
Ahtna Region
Benchmark Examination Results for Alaska Native Students, 2002 – 2003 and 2003 – 2004 School Years

School Year	Grade 3			Grade 6			Grade 8		
	Reading	Writing	Math	Reading	Writing	Math	Reading	Writing	Math
2003 - 2004	85.7%	57.1%	85.7%	42.9%	57.1%	52.4%	36.7%	50.0%	56.7%
2002 - 2003	50.0%	50.0%	75.0%	63.6%	54.5%	54.5%	46.2%	42.9%	28.6%
Change (%)	+35.7%	+7.1%	+10.7%	-20.8%	+2.6%	-2.2%	-9.5%	+7.1%	+28.1%

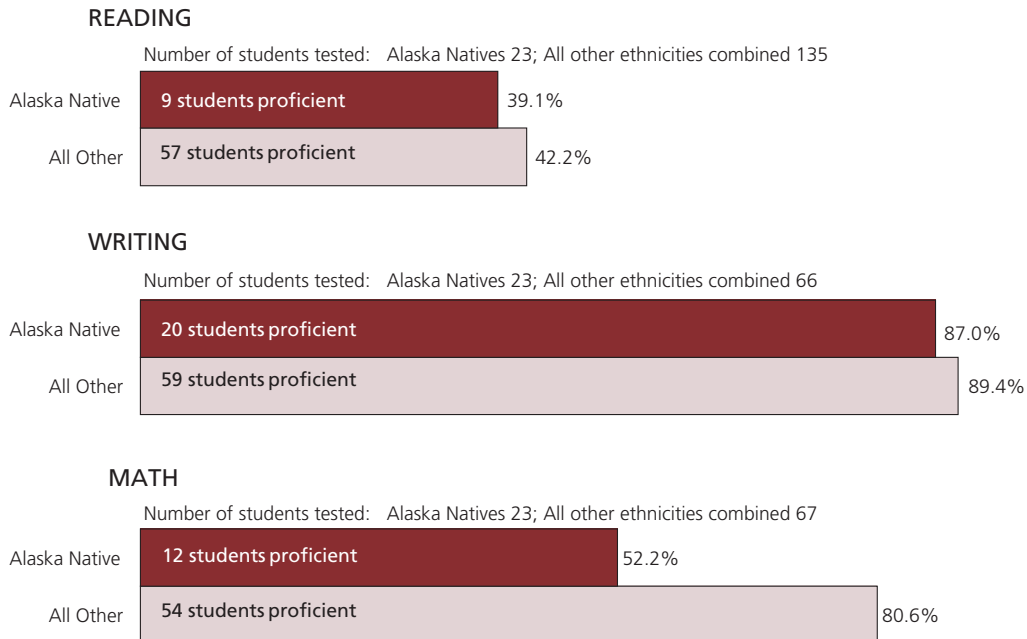
Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

High School Graduation Qualifying Examinations

Students are required to pass the Alaska High School Graduation Qualifying Examination in order to receive high school diplomas. Students can begin taking the exam in their sophomore years and are eligible to retake the exam as juniors and seniors for any un-passed portions of the test. Students are offered retests in both the spring and fall of their junior and senior years. Those who do not pass the High School Graduation Qualifying Examination will be denied diplomas and will receive Certificates of Achievement instead.

In the Ahtna region, lower percentages of Alaska Native students were proficient in each of the three subjects and at each of the grade levels, when compared to all other students.

Figure 14
Ahtna Region
High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Proficiency Results
for Grade 10 Test-takers, by Ethnicity
2003 – 2004 School Year

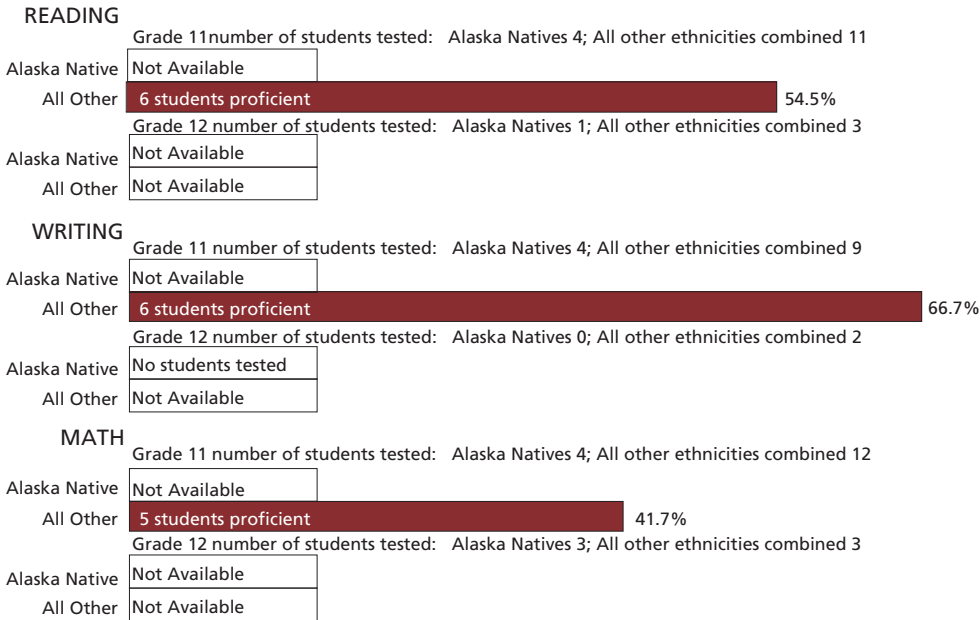


Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

Note: Proficiency is based on a percent of students who took the test and is not based on enrollment.

Ahtna region High School Graduation Qualifying Examination results were compiled for the ethnicities and schools that had releasable data. Some re-testing results for students in the 11th and 12th grades were not available because some data may have revealed an individual student's performance.

Figure 15
 Ahtna Region
 High School Graduation Qualifying Exam Proficiency Results for Grade 11 and 12 Re-Testers, by Ethnicity
 2003 – 2004 School Year



Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.
 Note: Proficiency is based on a percent of students who took the test and is not based on enrollment.

High School Graduation Rates

In the 2003-2004 school year, the Ahtna region graduation rate for all students was 73.1 percent. Alaska Native students graduated at a rate of 42.9 percent, compared to 79.7 percent for all other ethnicities combined.

A graduate is defined as a student who has received a regular diploma from a state- or district-approved education program, as evidenced by receipt of a secondary school diploma from school authorities. Any student who receives a diploma under a waiver from the competency examination required in AS 14.03.075 (a), as specified by the state board, is considered to be a graduate. This does not include an individual who receives a Certificate of Achievement.

The No Child Left Behind Act requires the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development to adopt a cohort method for determining high school graduation rates. Beginning in the 2002-2003 school year, the Department switched to a new cohort method to measure the relative percent of students that graduate from high school in four years. For the 2003-2004 school year graduation rate indicator, the cohort includes all students starting high school (Grade 9) in the 2000-2001 school year through their graduation scheduled four years later in the 2003-2004 school year.

The graduation rate formula used by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development is:

$$\frac{\text{Number of Graduates (2003-2004)}}{\text{Number of Graduates (2003-2004)} + \text{Number of Continuing 12th Grade Students (2003-2004)} + \text{Number of 12th Grade Drop-outs (2003-2004)} + \text{Number of 11th Grade Drop-outs (2002-2003)} + \text{Number of 10th Grade Drop-outs (2001-2002)} + \text{Number of 9th Grade Drop-outs (2000-2001)}}$$

It is important to note there are some limitations with this new methodology. For instance, a student that graduated in five years, rather than four years, would be counted in the next cohort of students. A student that graduates in three years, instead of four, would be counted in the prior cohort. Additionally, in the 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 school years, student-level information was submitted with anonymous information that could not be linked directly to specific students. The Department had no way to check for duplication or to see that the ethnic codes are valid for those two years.

Table 26
Ahtna Region
High School Graduation Rates by School and Ethnicity
Cohort of 2000-2001 through 2003 – 2004 School Years

District and School Name	Alaska Natives				All Other Ethnicities			
	Number of Graduates	Continuing Students*	Drop-Outs 2001-2004**	Graduation Rate***	Number of Graduates	Continuing Students*	Drop-Outs 2001-2004**	Graduation Rate***
Copper River Schools								
Copper River Corresp. Glennallen Jr/Sr High School	-	-	2	0.0%	-	3	4	0.0%
Kenny Lake School	2	-	4	33.3	15	1	2	83.3
Slana School	2	-	2	50.0	5	1	-	83.3
	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	100.0
Denali Schools								
Anderson School	1	-	-	100.0	7	-	1	87.5
Cantwell School	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.0
Denali Peak Program	-	-	-	-	9	-	-	100.0
Tri-Valley School	1	-	-	100.0	12	-	-	100.0
Ahtna Region Total	6	-	8	42.9%	51	5	8	79.7%

Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.

Notes: * Continuing 12th Grade students include students who did not graduate in the 12th year but remained enrolled in school to complete course work toward graduation in the following year(s).

** Includes a sum of total student drop-outs from the 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003, 2003-2004 school years.

*** Graduation rates are calculated using the following formula: $\text{Number of Graduates} \div (\text{Number of Graduates} + \text{Number of Continuing Students} + \text{Number of Drop-outs (200/2001 to 2003/2004)})$.

Drop-Out Rates

A drop-out is defined as a student who was enrolled in the school at some time during the school year and left the school at some time during that same school year.

Ahtna region drop-out rates are displayed in the following table for the 2003–2004 school year. Reporting, calculating, and interpreting drop-out rates are subject to error and should be viewed with some caution, when reported at the region and school district levels. Drop-out rates do not directly correspond to high school graduation rates because graduation rates use a cohort method of calculation (over the past four years), rather than a single-year event, and do not include 7th and 8th grades.

The drop-out rate for Alaska Native students in the Ahtna region for grades 7 through 12 was 9.4 percent for the 2003-2004 school year. This compares to all other students in the Ahtna region who dropped out at a rate of 0.9 percent.

When compared to 2001-2002 school year drop-out figures, it appears that drop-outs have declined for the region.

*Table 27
Ahtna Region
Drop-out Rates for Grades 7 through 12 by School and Ethnicity
2001-2002 and 2003 – 2004 School Year*

District and School Name	Alaska Native Students			All Other Students			Total Students		
	Enrollment	Drop-outs	% Drop-outs	Enrollment	Drop-outs	% Drop-outs	Enrollment	Drop-outs	% Drop-outs
Copper River Schools									
Chistochina School	0	0		1	0	0.0%	1	0	0.0%
Copper River Corresp. Glennallen Jr/Sr High School	8	3	37.5%	56	3	5.4	64	6	9.4
Kenny Lake School	77	7	9.1	108	1	0.9	185	8	4.3
Slana School	17	1	5.9	47	0	0.0	64	1	1.6
Slana School	1	0	0.0	5	0	0.0	6	0	0.0
Denali Borough Schools									
Anderson School	3	0	0.0	41	0	0.0	44	0	0.0
Cantwell School	5	0	0.0	5	0	0.0	10	0	0.0
Denali Correspondence School	0	0	-	102	0	0.0	102	0	0.0
Tri-Valley School	6	0	0.0	99	0	0.0	105	0	0.0
Ahtna Region Total	117	11	9.4%	464	4	0.9%	581	15	2.6%
Comparison to 2001-2002 School Year									
Ahtna Totals 2001-2002 School Year	104	12	11.5%	388	12	3.1%	492	24	4.9%
Number Change	+13	-1		+76	-8		+89	-9	
Percent Change	+12.5%	-8.3%		+19.6%	-66.7%		+18.1%	-37.5%	

Source: Alaska Department of Education and Early Development.