



**Commissioner Roger Sampson**  
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## N • E • W • S R • E • L • E • A • S • E

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### **Education Department Recruits Mentors For New Teachers**

*Two-Year Project Seeks To Improve Skills of Teachers New To The Classroom*

The Department of Education & Early Development is recruiting seasoned active and retired classroom teachers and school administrators to serve two years as mentors to teachers new to the education profession beginning this fall.

The department and University of Alaska Statewide are sponsoring the project. The department expects to provide up to 350 new teachers with mentors. About 30 mentors are needed to staff the project.

“Our project is based on a proven model designed to transition teachers from the university classroom to the public school classroom in a planned and systematic way. This project will have positive lasting benefits for schools, teachers and students,” said Education Commissioner Roger Sampson.

The mentoring program, scheduled to begin this fall, is aimed at increasing the quality of instruction, improve the retention of new teachers and improve student achievement, Sampson said. The mentoring model is based on the Santa Cruz model. This model has shown a strong correlation to increased student achievement after only one year.

The department is recruiting mentors who have strong interpersonal skills, demonstrate excellent classroom practices, have credibility with peers and administrators, demonstrate curiosity and eagerness to learn, have respect for multiple perspectives, demonstrate commitment to improving the academic achievement of all students and have a deep knowledge of the subject matter they teach.

Mentor applicants will be screened, interviewed and selected by the end of May. Mentors will undergo a series of mentor training during the school year.

Applications and other information are on the web at [www.eed.state.ak.us](http://www.eed.state.ak.us). Look under ‘Headlines.’ Deadline for applications to become a mentor is April 30.

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