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State Board of Education approves waivers for 32 districts

The State Board of Education & Early Development on Tuesday approved waivers for 32 school districts from the state requirement that they spend at least 70 percent of their operating expenditures on instruction.

The board, meeting in a teleconference, approved waivers for those districts' proposed fiscal year 2006 budgets.

The number of waivers, 32, is the same as in fiscal years 2004 and 2005. School districts have been required to meet the 70 percent threshold since fiscal year 2001 or apply for a waiver.

The State Board granted waivers on Tuesday to the following school districts: Alaska Gateway, Aleutian Region, Aleutians East Borough, Bristol Bay Borough, Chatham, Copper River, Cordova, Haines Borough, Hoonah City, Hydaburg City, Iditarod Area, Kake City, Klawock City, Kuspuk, Lake and Peninsula, Lower Yukon, Nenana City, Nome City, North Slope Borough, Northwest Arctic Borough, Pelican City, Pribilof, Saint Mary's, Skagway City, Southeast Island, Southwest Region, Tanana City, Wrangell, Yakutat City, Yukon Flats, Yukon-Koyukuk, and Yupiit.

Officials at the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development have identified the two main characteristics of most districts that seek waivers: They have budgets of \$3 million or less, or they have operations and maintenance costs that take up more than 20 percent of their operating fund budget. Energy costs are a significant component in operations and maintenance.

The informational packet for the board meeting is available on line at:
[http://www.eed.state.ak.us/State Board/pdf/October Packet.pdf](http://www.eed.state.ak.us/State_Board/pdf/October_Packet.pdf).

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