

Barbara Thompson
Interim Commissioner
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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 3, 2007

State Board opens search for Commissioner of Education & Early Development

The State Board of Education & Early Development has opened a nationwide search for a Commissioner of the Department of Education & Early Development.

The board will accept applications through 4:30 p.m. Alaska time February 1, 2008.

Former Commissioner Roger Sampson resigned effective August 17, 2007. The State Board appointed Barbara Thompson, who had been serving as Deputy Commissioner, the Interim Commissioner for up to a year, effective August 18, 2007.

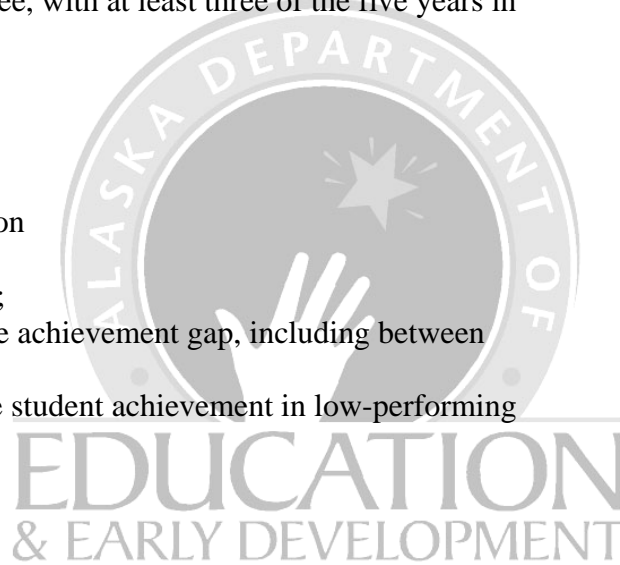
The State Board has approved a schedule for the Commissioner search that includes interviews with finalists on March 26, 2008. Commissioners are selected by the State Board and approved by the Governor. They are appointed without regard to political affiliation. They serve at the pleasure of the State Board for no fixed term.

The Commissioner serves as chief executive officer of the department, ex-officio secretary to the State Board of Education & Early Development, and a member of the Governor's Cabinet.

By state statute, applicants must have at least a master's degree with at least five years of experience in education since receiving the degree, with at least three of the five years in an exclusively administrative position.

Application materials must include:

1. Letter of interest
2. Resume
3. List of references with contact information
4. Written description of:
 - a. your core values about education;
 - b. policies and strategies to close the achievement gap, including between Native and non-Native students;
 - c. policies and strategies to improve student achievement in low-performing schools and districts;



- d. the role of K-12 education in preparing students to enter the workforce and postsecondary institutions;
- e. methods to enhance the skills and strategies of beginning teachers and school administrators; and
- f. your vision of the department's leadership role in education statewide.

Send application materials to:

Alaska Department of Education & Early Development

ATTN: Commissioner's Office

801 West 10th St., Suite 200

P.O. Box 110500

Juneau AK 99811-0500

Or electronically to: eric.fry@alaska.gov.

Names of applicants are subject to public disclosure. For more information, contact Information Officer Eric Fry at 907-465-2851 and see www.eed.state.ak.us.

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