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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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State Board approves waivers for 24 school districts

JUNEAU -- The State Board of Education & Early Development, meeting in a teleconference October 26, 2007, granted 24 school districts waivers from a state requirement to allot at least 70 percent of their operating budgets for instruction.

The affected districts generally had an operating budget of \$3 million or less or had operations and maintenance costs that totaled at least 20 percent of their operating budget.

The number of districts granted waivers for their fiscal year 2008 budgets matches the number of districts granted waivers in fiscal year 2007, and it represents a decline from the 32 districts granted waivers in fiscal years 2004, 2005 and 2006.

The districts granted waivers for fiscal year 2008 are: Alaska Gateway, Aleutians East, Bristol Bay, Chatham, Copper River, Cordova, Denali, Hoonah, Iditarod, Kake, Klawock, Kuspuk, Lake and Peninsula, Nome, North Slope, Northwest Arctic, Pelican, Pribilof, Saint Mary's, Skagway, Southwest Region, Tanana, Wrangell, and Yukon Flats.

The board also set a timetable for the search for a permanent Commissioner of Education & Early Development. The search, which will be advertised in-state and nationwide, will begin in early December. The State Board plans to interview finalists in late March and shortly afterward forward the name of selected candidate(s) to Governor Sarah Palin for her approval.

The board also selected Fairbanks as the site for its June 6, 2008, meeting, and it approved Hal Spackman as Interim Deputy Commissioner.

For the board packet, see: http://www.eed.state.ak.us/State_Board/.

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