



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kodiak Superintendent Named Education Commissioner

April 24, 2008, Anchorage, Alaska – Governor Sarah Palin today approved the State Board of Education and Early Development’s appointment of Larry LeDoux to serve as Commissioner. Former Deputy Commissioner Barbara Thompson has served as Interim Commissioner since August 18, 2007.

"The Board of Education did an excellent job in their deliberations and consideration of many fine candidates, and I sincerely appreciate their efforts and this outcome," Governor Palin said. "I appreciate Larry’s dedication to our education system and know with his expertise and leadership we will build and improve Alaska schools, ensuring our students are receiving the best education possible. Barbara Thompson has done an amazing job as our acting commissioner, and my hat is off to her for caring so much about Alaska’s schools and all our students."

LeDoux is superintendent of the Kodiak Island Borough School District, where he has held numerous administrative posts. He has served as principal of North Star Elementary School and of Kodiak High School, and taught at the latter school. LeDoux holds a master of arts in teaching in science and biology from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

"Strengthening families and communities begins with the quality of education we provide," Larry LeDoux said. "The investment poured into each child will be redeemed in the quality of our future Alaskans."

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

By statute, Education Commissioners 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. Commissioners are 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 Department of Education & Early Development oversees K-12 public schools and operates Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Sitka. The department also includes the Division of Libraries, Museums and Archives; the Professional Teaching Practices Commission; and the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

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