

Larry LeDoux
Commissioner
P.O. Box 110500
Juneau, AK 99811-0500
www.eed.state.ak.us



Eric Fry
Information Officer
907.465.2851
cell: 907.321.5564
eric.fry@alaska.gov

Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 16, 2008

Les Morse named Deputy Commissioner of Education

JUNEAU – Les Morse of Juneau has been appointed Deputy Commissioner of Education in the Department of Education & Early Development, Commissioner Larry LeDoux announced today. The State Board of Education & Early Development confirmed the appointment at its meeting in Sitka on September 12.

Morse had been serving as the department's Director of Assessment, Accountability and Information Management.

As Deputy Commissioner, Morse's duties will focus on implementing district and school improvement plans in keeping with state laws and regulations and the federal No Child Left Behind Act. Under improvement plans, academically struggling districts and schools refine their leadership and instruction to meet the educational needs of each student.

"I am confident there is no one in Alaska who is better prepared to collaborate with schools and districts to help our students fulfill their academic promise," Commissioner LeDoux said. "Les Morse has been instrumental in guiding Alaska through the difficult and complex task of establishing a standards- and accountability-based system of education. As a former rural and urban teacher and principal, Les never forgets that students are why we do everything we do."

Morse holds a bachelor's degree in secondary education from Montana State University and masters' degrees in educational technology and educational leadership from the University of Alaska Southeast. Morse holds an Alaska administrator's certificate with endorsements as a superintendent and a K-12 principal, and an Alaska teacher's certificate with endorsements in secondary history, business education, and K-12 technology.

He taught in the Hooper Bay School and in Juneau schools, and was principal of Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School in Juneau, before coming to the department in 2003.

"I am thrilled to have this opportunity to work collaboratively with schools and districts, creating wonderful and enriching places where our students learn," Morse said. "I will be

EDUCATION
& EARLY DEVELOPMENT

able to build on my years of experience as a teacher and principal and in the field of assessment in a very positive way.”

For more information: Les Morse, 907-465-8691 or les.morse@alaska.gov or Information Officer Eric Fry, 907-465-2851 or eric.fry@alaska.gov.

###

