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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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State Board of Education & Early Development adopts regulations

JUNEAU -- The State Board of Education & Early Development, meeting May 28, 29 and 30 in Anchorage, adopted eight regulation packages and sent out for public comment three proposed regulation packages.

The board adopted proposed regulations to:

Set standards for beginning teachers.

Allow holders of Type C certificates in speech pathology and school counseling to be eligible for Type B administrative certificates and become endorsed as special education administrators.

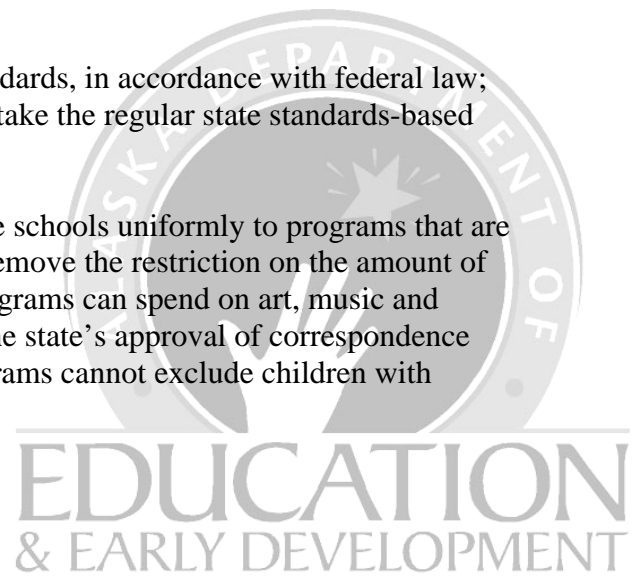
Allow holders of Type C special service certificates to be eligible for a Type B administrative certificate.

Require teachers who hold a subject-matter-expert limited teacher certificate to remain enrolled in a teacher preparation program, or have completed the program, throughout their certificate period.

Will not require the appointment of a surrogate parent when a foster parent agrees to act as a parent in special education matters and intends to serve as a foster parent on an ongoing basis.

Eliminate the Alaska alternate performance standards, in accordance with federal law; these standards applied to students who did not take the regular state standards-based assessments.

Apply the state's regulations for correspondence schools uniformly to programs that are statewide or operated only within one district; remove the restriction on the amount of state money that families in correspondence programs can spend on art, music and physical education; streamline the process for the state's approval of correspondence programs; and clarify that correspondence programs cannot exclude children with disabilities.



And expand the state's academic audits of school districts to include audits of individual schools, and implement improvement programs as needed.

The board also approved new education programs at the University of Alaska Anchorage and the University of Alaska Southeast, and approved the charter for Anvil City Science School in Nome for five years.

The board sent out for public comment the following proposed regulations:

To set the cut scores for the four proficiency levels in the state's science standards-based assessments.

To set the cut scores for the four proficiency levels in the state's alternate science standards-based assessments.

To require teachers of early childhood, grades kindergarten through second grade, to have completed six semester hours in early childhood education. The proposal would affect people who are first employed in such a position on or after September 1, 2009.

The board also sent out for public review a revised policy handbook for state-operated Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Sitka.

The board re-elected Esther Cox as chair and Dr. Shirley Holloway as first vice-chair, and elected Phillip Schneider as second vice-chair.

The board set dates and locations for upcoming meetings: July 25, 2008, teleconference; September 10-12, 2008, in Sitka; October 27, 2008, teleconference; December 4-5, 2008, in Anchorage; January 16, 2009, teleconference; March 19-20, 2009, in Juneau; and June 11-12, 2009, in Fairbanks.

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

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