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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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State Board repeals requirement that teachers submit tapes of classroom instruction

JUNEAU -- The State Board of Education & Early Development has repealed a certification requirement that teachers submit two videotapes or DVDs of them teaching classes. The State Board met on September 11-12, 2008, in Sitka

State regulation previously had required the taped performance reviews for teachers who are moving from their Initial certificate, which is for three years and nonrenewable, to their Professional certificate, which is for five years and renewable. Additionally, under the previous regulation, teachers could use the performance reviews to establish that they meet federal requirements for being highly qualified.

Now that the State Board has amended the previous regulation, teachers will no longer have to submit taped performance reviews and they will not be able to use performance reviews to establish that they are highly qualified. However, teachers may still use performance reviews to meet requirements for Master certification, a voluntary level of certification that is good for 10 years and is renewable.

In addition, the State Board declined to act on a proposed regulation that would have required teachers hired after September 1, 2009, in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and grades 1 and 2 classrooms to have taken six college credits in early childhood education. Instead, the State Board asked the Department of Education & Early Development to collaborate with early childhood educators to find ways to customize staff development based on those teachers' needs.

The State Board re-adopted regulations regarding school-level performance audits and interventions that it had adopted in May 2008. The State Board's action was necessary because the regulations adopted in May cited an enabling statute that had not yet taken effect. The statute has since become effective.

The State Board sent out for public comment a proposed regulation that will provide a way for public-school libraries to apply for state grants of up to \$3,000 a year to expand their collections.



EDUCATION
& EARLY DEVELOPMENT

The State Board approved a request by the Galena City School District to increase the number of students for which its residential program can be reimbursed for residential costs. The State Board approved the requested increase, which was from 120 to 175 students. The increased funding would take effect in the fiscal year 2010 budget if the Legislature approves it.

The State Board also named member Bunny Schaeffer of Kotzebue to serve on the advisory board of Mt. Edgecumbe High School, a state-operated boarding school in Sitka.

For the board packet, see: www.eed.state.ak.us/State_Board/. For more information, contact Information Officer Eric Fry at 907-465-2851 or eric.fry@alaska.gov.

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