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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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State Board of Education & Early Development approves procedures for school library grants

JUNEAU – The State Board of Education & Early Development, meeting December 4-5, 2008, in Anchorage, approved one regulation, adopted a resolution, and sent out for public comment two proposed regulations.

The State Board approved a regulation that governs how public school libraries will apply for state grants of up to \$3,000 to buy reading materials, and how the state will award the grants. The Legislature has approved the grant program but has not yet appropriated funds for it.

The State Board adopted a resolution asking the Legislature to reconsider or amend a state law that requires school districts to spend at least 70 percent of their operating funds on instruction, but which also allows for waivers.

The resolution notes that since the law was passed, in 1998, the state has implemented an extensive system of assessments, accountability and improvement plans for schools and districts. The state has not seen a correlation between instructional spending and student achievement. At the same time, the processing of waivers each year consumes the staff time of school districts and the state.

The State Board sent out for public comment a proposed regulation to change the effective date for the Alaska Career Ready program from the 2009-2010 school year to the 2010-2011 school year.

Alaska Career Ready requires schools to administer assessments to students in grades 6, 8 and 11 in reading for information, applied math, and locating information in graphical formats. Additionally, the program provides students the opportunity to review job profiles and take free online courses in the assessed subjects, which relate to skills that employers have said are fundamental to being able to learn job-specific skills.

The Alaska Career Ready web site is at www.careerready.alaska.gov.



EDUCATION
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The State Board sent out for public comment a proposed regulation that would simplify the method by which school districts apply for state quality school grants of up to \$10,000. The Hydaburg School District requested the regulation to reduce administrative costs.

The State Board selected Tim Rockey, a sophomore at Palmer High School, as its student adviser-elect. Rockey will serve in that position until July 1, 2009, when he will begin a year as the student adviser to the State Board.

The State Board also approved the applications of Watershed Charter School in Fairbanks and Kaleidoscope Charter School in Kenai.

The board packet is available at: [http://www.eed.state.ak.us/State Board/](http://www.eed.state.ak.us/State_Board/).

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