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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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State seeks comments on draft Alaska Education Plan

JUNEAU – The state is seeking comments on the draft Alaska Education Plan, which is online at www.eed.state.ak.us. The deadline for comments is midnight Feb. 19.

After reviewing the public's comments, the department will present the draft plan to the State Board of Education & Early Development. The State Board is scheduled to consider approving the Alaska Education Plan at its meeting on March 19-20 in Juneau.

The draft Alaska Education Plan is the state's first blueprint for public education. The plan provides the basis for accountability to the public. The plan answers these fundamental questions: What is Alaska's vision for our schools and students? What are our goals? What attributes and skills do we want high school graduates to possess? What actions will allow us to meet these goals?

Knowing where we want to go, we can determine if our expenditures of money and effort are efficiently and effectively getting us there. The public, having a clear vision for our schools and students, can measure performance against these goals. The plan, which periodically will be reviewed and revised, encourages Alaskans to participate in the goal-setting process and own the results.

The Alaska Statewide Education Summit, held in November 2008 in Anchorage, initiated the effort to develop the Alaska Education Plan. Nearly 450 participants discussed education topics ranging from preschool to postsecondary, technology to finances, community partnerships to culture. Participants also considered the results from a survey completed by several thousand Alaskans.

The Alaska Education Plan organizes the summit's results into three topics, in order to provide greater focus. They are World-Class Schools; Community, Culture, and Family; and Student Health and Safety. Each topic includes a rationale for action, a goal, and broadly stated actions to achieve each goal. Groups of Alaskans will continue to meet in 2009 to develop a detailed, prioritized action plan for each goal.

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