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## Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### State Board approves graduation outcomes as goals

The State Board of Education & Early Development, meeting September 9-10 in Galena, adopted three regulations and sent out for public comment two proposed regulations.

The board approved:

- A regulation to use the graduation outcomes of the Alaska Education Plan as the state's goals for education. The plan was developed by Alaskans in November 2008. The graduation outcomes are what Alaskans want their high school graduates to know and be able to do. The outcomes include a broad knowledge base, effective communication, use of technology, logical and critical thinking, health, creativity, ethics, and enthusiasm for learning. The full text of the Alaska Education Plan is at [www.eed.state.ak.us](http://www.eed.state.ak.us).
- A regulation to replace the term "mental retardation" with "cognitive impairment" in state education regulations. Originally a medical term, "retardation" has migrated into the vernacular and is sometimes used as a derogatory term.
- A regulation to clarify that the school district that operates the Alaska School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing is not required to offer transportation to students who do not live in the district. Instead, the school district that places a child in the school is responsible for providing transportation. The Anchorage School District currently operates the school for the state.

The board sent out for public comment:

- A proposed regulation to approve the ParaPro Assessment as the state assessment by which paraprofessionals can demonstrate they are highly qualified. The assessment previously used by Alaska will not be available after December 2009.

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- A proposed regulation to ensure that public and private pre-elementary schools meet the state's requirements for criminal background checks and safety standards. The proposed regulation does not apply to military-operated schools or programs that are not primarily designed to prepare children for public school, such as programs that expose children to religious, artistic, single-subject immersion, or recreational content or activities. The proposed regulation would take effect February 1, 2010. The state already imposes similar requirements for child care facilities.

The board approved Alyse Galvin as the Partnership Liaison for the Alaska Department of Education & Early Development. One of the three main goals of the Alaska Education Plan is that schools will form strong partnerships with families and communities, and will respect and embrace local culture. Galvin, based in Anchorage, will help families find public and private resources in their school districts and connect them to state resources; provide information about alternative education opportunities for at-risk students; and build partnerships between the department and nonprofit agencies that serve children and families.

The board approved Lois Rhodes as Sitka representative and Al Adams as an alumnus representative to the Advisory Board of the state-operated Mt. Edgecumbe High School in Sitka.

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