

**Heidi Teshner**  
Acting Commissioner

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Department of Education  
and Early Development

Juneau, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**July 13, 2022**

## **State Board Appoints Acting Commissioner, Sends Assessment Cut Scores Regulations to Public Comment**

JUNEAU – Today the Alaska State Board of Education & Early Development appointed Heidi Teshner as Acting Commissioner of the Department. Teshner was previously Deputy Commissioner and has 19 years of experience with the Department of Education & Early Development.

Teshner will serve as Acting Commissioner until the Board selects the next Commissioner of the Department. Unlike other State of Alaska departments, the Commissioner of the Department of Education & Early Development is selected by the State Board and subject to the approval of the Governor.

The Board also voted to send regulations for assessment cut scores out for public comment for both the AK STAR and Alaska Science Assessment. Cut scores are used to set the parameters of assessment achievement categories. For both assessments, new terms used for achievement categories are Advanced, Proficient, Approaching, and Needs Support.

The Board also approved the minutes of the June 8-9, 2022 meeting.

The Board's next scheduled meeting is a regular quarterly meeting, in-person in Sitka on September 6-7, 2022.

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*The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development provides information, resources, and leadership to support over 130,000 students in 505 public schools across the state of Alaska. The mission of the department is to ensure an **"Excellent Education for Every Student Every Day."***

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