AS 14.20.010 states, “A person may not be employed as a teacher in the public schools of the state unless that person possesses a valid teacher certificate except that a person who has made application to the department for a teacher certificate or renewal of a teacher certificate that has not been acted upon by the department may be employed as a teacher in the public schools of the state until the department has taken action on the application, but in no case may employment without a certificate last longer than three months.”

The Office of Certification provides teacher applicants with evidence when a completed application has been received. It is the Commission’s position that a superintendent is responsible for assuring that individuals hired as teachers meet the requirements of the law by either providing a copy of a valid teacher certificate or evidence that application has been made for a certificate. The hiring of a teacher who has not met these conditions may result in disciplinary action by the Commission pursuant to AS 14.20.030 (a)(3).

This policy was adopted September 29, 2003.