

**To: Members of the State Board of  
Education & Early Development**

**March 16, 2023**

**From: Heidi Teshner, Acting Commissioner**

**Agenda Item: 8A**

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◆ **ISSUE**

The board is being asked to adopt regulations related to the qualification and certification of Alaska educators.

◆ **BACKGROUND**

- The proposed regulation is in response to the statutory changes to teacher certification requirements made by House Bill (HB) 19 Limited Teacher Certificate; Languages that became law on October 5, 2022 (Chapter 73, SLA 2022). The effective date of this new law is December 15, 2022.
- HB 19 provides for a limited teaching certificate, sponsored by an Alaska public school district, for individuals teaching in a world language immersion school.
- The proposed regulation repeals the current limited world language expert limited teacher certificate and adopts a limited world language immersion teacher certificate.
- The proposed regulation provides a menu of options for demonstrating an applicant's expertise in the world language, the competency in the specific subject areas to be taught, and the necessary instructional skills.
- While HB 19 prohibits the completion of a teacher preparation program, a bachelor's degree or testing in languages other than the language of expertise be requirements for this certificate type, the regulation does provide for these to be ways to demonstrate expertise, competency, and skills.
- Other ways to demonstrate expertise, competency, and skills include assessment processes recognized by school districts and tribal governments, evaluation of coursework completed, and letters of reference.
- A district that sponsors an applicant for this new certificate is required to provide the applicant with an experienced mentor for at least the first two years of the applicant is employed with the school district.
- Applicants for this new license are required to submit a fingerprint card and complete the four mandatory training courses.
- No public comment was received during the period of public comment.
- The proposed regulations can be found behind this cover memo.

- Susan McKenzie, Director of the Division of Innovation and Education Excellence; Sondra Meredith, Administrator of Teacher Education & Certification; and Susan Sonneborn, Assistant Attorney General will be present to brief the board.

◆ **OPTIONS**

This is a work session item. Action will take place under Agenda Item 12A.