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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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State Board Seeks Comments on Six Proposed Regulations

The State Board of Education & Early Development, meeting Sept. 17 & 18 in Sitka, has sent out for public comment six proposed regulations. Written comments are due by 4:30 p.m. October 30. To see the proposed regulations and submit written comments, see <https://education.alaska.gov/regs/comment.cfm>

Briefly, the proposed regulations:

- In keeping with a new state statute, make clear that school districts are required to offer only students in grades 9-12 the opportunity to challenge courses by demonstrating mastery of the material.
- No longer require school districts to administer early literacy assessments to students in kindergarten through third grade.
- Remove an education regulation regarding the use of school funds in elections because it conflicts with a statute and regulation enforced by the Alaska Public Offices Commission.
- Add fetal alcohol spectrum disorder to the list of health impairments that may render a student eligible for special education and related services as a child with other health impairments; and allow advanced nurse practitioners with certification in psychiatry or family practice to diagnose fetal alcohol spectrum disorder in determining a student's eligibility for special education and related services as a child with other health impairments.
- Adopt by reference the most recent edition of the publication *Participation Guidelines for Alaska Students in State Assessments*, that of December 2015, which reflects changes in assessments of English language proficiency and science.

EDUCATION
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- Add new trainings required by state law into the certification requirements for teachers, effective June 30, 2017; provide more options for content area examinations for the purposes of designating a teacher as highly qualified, obtaining a certificate and initial endorsements, and adding endorsements to a teacher certificate.

Additionally, the State Board adopted regulations to require school districts to give a high school diploma to persons who hold a certificate of achievement from the district and who take a college and career readiness assessment (SAT, ACT, or WorkKeys).

A state law, effective July 1, 2014, required high school students to take a college and career readiness assessment as a condition of receiving a diploma. But the mandate was repealed, effective June 30, 2016.

Students completing their high school credits in 2014-2015 or 2015-2016 earn a certificate of achievement instead of a diploma if they did not take a career and college readiness assessment in high school. The new regulations allow those students to receive a diploma by taking a college and career readiness assessment after leaving high school.

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