

Alaska Department of Education and Early Development

Reaction to the appointment of Dr. Michael Johnson as Commissioner of Education and Early Development

“I am thrilled that the State Board and the Governor have selected such an experienced educational leader as Commissioner. I look forward to working with Dr. Johnson to provide leadership for the department and to continue making progress on the board’s priorities.”

– Dr. Susan McCauley, Interim Commissioner

“I look forward to working with Michael Johnson in his new role as the Commissioner of Education. As an educational leader in our state, he is one of the best. His desire for all students to learn and achieve is beyond reproach. It is a good day for education in Alaska, and I look forward to the great work we will do to improve teaching and learning in our state. Dr. Johnson has my confidence.” – Dr. Deena Paramo, Superintendent of the Anchorage School District

“On behalf of the Alaska Council of School Administrators (ACSA) and Alaska Superintendents Association (ASA) I congratulate Dr. Michael Johnson on his appointment as Commissioner of the Department of Education and Early Development. It has been my pleasure to work alongside Dr. Johnson in his role as ACSA and ASA President advocating for public education. Dr. Johnson is a dedicated public servant who will serve Alaska’s students and school administrators assiduously as the Commissioner. He brings enthusiasm, energy, and the deep desire to pull people together into his new role. We look forward to continuing our work with him and the department to advocate for public education, support educational leaders, and provide a voice that champions possibilities for all students. We also acknowledge Dr. Susan McCauley and Betty Walters for their dedicated service as interim commissioner and interim deputy commissioner and wish them both success in their future endeavors.” – Dr. Lisa Skiles Parady, Executive Director Alaska Council of School Administrators

“The Association of Alaska School Boards is pleased to congratulate Dr. Michael Johnson as the Commissioner Designee of the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development. Dr. Johnson is a distinguished educator who has always had student achievement as his primary focus and we are pleased the State Board of Education is bringing this level of expertise forward to lead the department. AASB looks forward to continuing our work with the department and Dr. Johnson as partners serving Alaska’s public school students.” – Norman Wooten, Executive Director, Association of Alaska School Boards

“We look forward to working with the new Commissioner on education issues that affect all Alaska's children. Every member of the legislature supports high-quality education for all students.” – Mike Chenault, Speaker of the House of Representatives

“Michael is a recognized leader in the education community. We look forward to a productive relationship to advance priorities to improve opportunities for Alaska’s youth.” – Representative Cathy Muñoz

“I look forward to working closely with Dr. Johnson to make sure that Alaska children have the benefit of an excellent public education.” – Representative Sam Kito III

“Michael Johnson is a thoughtful and consistent leader who will listen to all Alaskans in order to make informed decisions in the best interest of public education. I have complete respect and faith in

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his leadership.” – Mary McMahon, President of the Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals

“I have had the pleasure of working with Michael over the past two years through our roles in the Alaska Superintendents Association. With the state facing daunting, nearly unprecedented challenges, Michael's calm, levelheaded, and collaborative leadership style makes him the perfect choice to fill the role of Commissioner. I am confident I speak not only for myself, but for many other superintendents from all over the great state of Alaska, when I say we look forward to working with Commissioner Johnson as we strive to provide all children in this state the education they deserve.” – Dr. Mark Miller, Superintendent of the Juneau School District

“I am thrilled to learn that Dr. Johnson will be our next Commissioner. His vision for Alaska's public schools is sound. I look forward to working with him to tighten the ties between K-12 and the University of Alaska teacher preparation programs.” – Dr. Steve Atwater, Interim Dean at the University Of Alaska Fairbanks and Vice President of K-12 Education at the University of Alaska

“As President-Elect of the Alaska Superintendents Association, I am very proud and excited about the selection of Dr. Michael Johnson as the next Commissioner of Education for the state of Alaska. His background as a public educator, superintendent of schools, and presidency of the Alaska Council of School Administrators provides deep credibility for his selection. Dr. Johnson also brings excellent leadership qualities to the position that will ensure our state will make significant progress in preparing Alaskan students for the future. We look forward to working with him during these fiscally challenging times as all of our school districts strive to provide an excellent education for all students in Alaska. Congratulations, Dr. Johnson!” – Sean Dusek, Superintendent of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

“I am very pleased Michael Johnson has been appointed as Alaska's Commissioner of Education. Dr. Johnson is student-centered and has the background and experience to move education in Alaska forward. I am confident that under his leadership there will be a balance of priorities and a clear path to provide our students with a quality education and the skills necessary to succeed in the 21st century. He has the ability to align the needs of our state with the goals of our stakeholders.” – Kerry Boyd, Superintendent of the Yukon-Koyukuk School District

“I taught for 36 years in the classroom, and I always put my students first. That's what I hope to see from Dr. Johnson as Alaska's new Commissioner, as he works with Alaska's teachers, parents, education support professionals, administrators, and students to address the new challenges and opportunities Alaska public schools face under the Every Student Succeeds Act.” – Ron Fuhrer, Anchorage teacher

“As a teacher, I am deeply committed to the success of my students. I would like to welcome Dr. Johnson as our new Commissioner of Education and Early Development. I look forward to working with him as a fellow educator to improve student learning opportunities for kids all across Alaska.” – Tim Parker, Fairbanks teacher

“I am writing in regard to my colleague, Dr. Michael Johnson. In my personal opinion, Michael is one of the best, if not the best, superintendents currently in the state of Alaska. I could not think of a better prospect for the Commissioner of Education vacancy.” – Ty Mase, Superintendent of the Lake and Peninsula School District